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Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the least and 5 the most, how safe and secure do you feel these days inside your home?

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to cast your vote.

56 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Commerce Chief
President-elect Barack Obama has chosen New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson to be commerce secretary.

NATION...Page 14

AMA Awards
Rihanna and Chris Brown captured the first two trophies at the American Music Awards.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Tenorio spent $31K in bid for delegate seat. **PAGE 2**
Fundraising launched for killed MHS security guard. **PAGE 5**

AFTER FALLING INTO WATERS OFF GUGUAN

Fishing boat crew drowns

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Police are investigating the death of a fishing boat crew member who reportedly drowned near the island of Guguan Saturday night. The boat carrying the body only arrived on Saipan the following night.

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CUC intends to take on repair of two engines

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has decided not to reissue an invitation to bid on the overhaul of two engines at Power Plant 1 after two companies were unresponsive. Instead, CUC plans to do the

See CUC on Page 4

Four sue Fitial, DelRosario over LaoLao Bay lease

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Four persons have filed a taxpayers' lawsuit against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, the Department of Public Lands, and DPL Secretary John S. DelRosario over the lease of 1.6 million square meters of prime public land to Saipan Laulau De-

See FOUR on Page 4

PRAYER OFFERING CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Emperor Enterprise Corp. president Hideaki Sawada and some of his employees light candles and offer flowers and food and prayers at the spot where a freak accident happened a week ago in Susupe. Three of the four passengers died, including Rose Ann Bautista, who used to work in a company owned by Sawada.

'Poor prospects for economic recovery'

Editor's Note: The Saipan Tribune *will be coming out in the following days with a series of articles on the recently issued study,* Economic Impact of Federal Laws on the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, *authored by Malcolm D. McPhee & Associates and Dick Conway. The 96-page report, prepared for the Office of the Governor under a grant from the Department of the Interior, traces the CNMI's economic history and the potential impact of the federal takeover come June 2009. The following is a shortened excerpt taken from the Recommendations section of the study:*

Economic recovery from the devastating depression in the CNMI may require decades. In fact full recovery may

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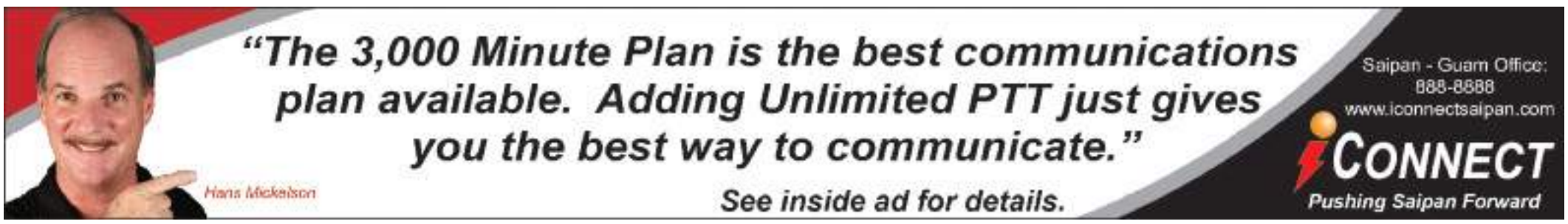
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Local

Tenorio spent $31K in bid for delegate seat

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Outgoing Washington Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio has reported spending a little over $31,000 in his failed bid for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Tenorio is the only candidate from the Northern Marianas who has his campaign financing now available for inspection on the Federal Election Commission's website.

Based on Tenorio's pre-election report, the FEC information shows that as of Oct. 31, 2008, Tenorio received $21,373 in contributions from individuals and the NMI Republican Party. Tenorio gave $10,227 out of his own pocket, bringing his campaign fund to a total of $31,600.

Meanwhile, the campaign posted a net cost of $37,650. This means that as of the end of October, Tenorio's campaign was in debt by $4,175.

Individual contributors to Tenorio's campaign include: Northern Marianas College dean Felicitas Abraham, $1,225; retiree Isamu Abraham, $400; former CNMI lt. governor Francisco C. Ada, $500; Washington, DC-based attorney Thomas Crowe, $250; Docomo Inc. counsel David Jeppsen, $250; Sen. Maria Frica Pangelinan, $300; Century Insurance president David Sablan, $250; Virginia-based attorney Orson Swindle III; and businessman Juan S. Tenorio, $1,450.

The campaign also received contributions from Tenorio's employees, including: chief of staff Malinda Matson, $1,152; administrative and finance officer Rose McDermott, $250; and legislative assistant Roman T. Palacios, $250.

Tenorio's final disclosure for the 2008 election is due in January.

According to a press release issued by the FEC, some individuals and their committees have no obligation to file reports under federal election law, even though their names may appear on state ballots. If an individual raises or spends less than $5,000, he or she is not subject to reporting under the law.

Delegate-elect Gregorio Kilili Sablan spent less than $50,000 on his campaign, said his campaign treasurer Edward Manglona. Sablan's report was submitted several days late to the FEC, and is not yet available for viewing on the website.

Other candidates who ran in the CNMI's first-ever election for a non-voting delegate are: television talk show host John Oliver Gonzales, retired judge Juan T. Lizama, Sen. Luis Crisostimo, former senator David Cing, Saipan municipal councilman Felipe Q. Atalig, businessman Chong Man Won, and high school teacher John Davis.

Care packages for NMI soldiers get boost

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and First Lady Josie Fitial donate to Operation CNMI Homefront's drive to send care packages to CNMI soldiers serving abroad.

AGNES E. DONATO

Soldiers serving on operations abroad may not be able to come home this holiday season, but local volunteers are making sure they at least get a taste of the islands.

Operation CNMI Home Front is set to send care packages to approximately 250 military men and women from the Northern Marianas next week, in a bid to get them to the soldiers in time for the holidays. The packages include canned food, snacks, toothpaste and toothbrushes, as well as letters to the individual soldiers.

Yesterday, the organization's care package drive got a boost with donations from Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and First Lady Josie Fitial. Fitial and his Cabinet donated about $600 worth of Spam canned meat. The First Lady's Vision, gave $800 worth of dried mango and *chicharon*.

"Sending these care packages is one of the ways we can share the holiday cheer with our troops who cannot be home for the holidays," said Ruth Coleman, executive officer of the Military and Veterans Affairs Office.

Geri Willis, organizer of Operation CNMI Home Front and director of the Troops to Teachers Program, echoed Coleman's statement, saying, "To our troops, we're thinking about you. We love you."

Regina Andres, a local soldier, said her colleagues currently serving abroad will appreciate the gifts from home. "They will enjoy this. Before I leave, I will make sure to give her [Willis] my own wish list," she said.

Coleman also said the organization is still accepting names and addresses for deployed soldiers who are stationed abroad. Those who know of an address of a military man or woman can contact Willis or Fred Camacho at troops2teachers@hotmail.com or 237-3287. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

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Villagomez, co-defendants file 10 motions, hearing on Dec. 11

Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and his co-defendants have filed a total of 10 pre-trial motions in federal court.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson set the hearing for all motions on Dec. 11, 2008, at 9am. Munson said that Lt. Gov. Villagomez submitted six motions, James A. Santos two, and Joaquina V. Santos two.

Villagomez filed a motion to dismiss the indictment for failure to state an offense, motion to dismiss count 1 of the indictment, motion to dismiss the indictment for outrageous government conduct, motion for a bill of particulars, motion to allow *voir dire* by counsel, and motion to allow the use of a jury questionnaire.

James Santos, a former Commerce Secretary, filed a motion to compel discovery and motion to dismiss the 1998-2000 transaction in count 1 of the indictment.

Joaquina Santos filed a motion to dismiss the indictment and a motion for a bill of particulars.

Lt. Gov. Villagomez joined in all Mr. and Mrs. Santos' motions.

Mrs. Santos joined Villagomez's motions for a bill of particulars and to allow *voir dire* by counsel.

The indictment charged Villagomez, James Santos and his wife Joaquina, and former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Anthony Guerrero with wire fraud, conspiracy, and theft involving federal funds.

The four allegedly conspired to bilk the CNMI government out of thousands of dollars through business deals involving chemical purchases for CUC.

All defendants, except Guerrero, pleaded not guilty. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Belated happy birthday greetings to Natasha Kani! "Wishing you many more!" Greetings come from your sisters, Lay and Lani.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Engineer: CUC *is using* Rydlyme

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@Saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is using the descaling agent Rydlyme, CUC's engineering manager said.

In an e-mail to CUC executive director Antonio Muna, Venugopal Prabhakara clarified that the utility company is using the Rydlyme in stock.

Prabhakara said they have been using Rydlyme to clean engine parts and remove scales within the engine heads that are being reconditioned. He said the parts are immersed for 48 hours in order to remove the water scale components.

Muna earlier said CUC was unable to use the descaling agent if there were only two engines running at Power Plant 1, as is the current case.

Rydlyme, produced by Apex Engineering Products Corp., is intended to dissolve water scale deposits in cooling passages without dismantling the equipment or pipes.

CUC's alleged questionable purchase of thousands of gallons of Rydlyme has led to the indictment of Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez, his sister Joaquina Villagomez Santos, her husband James Santos, and former CUC executive director Anthony Guerrero.

According to the indictment, of the 8,175 gallons of Rydlyme that remained unused at the time of the indictment, at least 1,485 gallons are in storage on Rota.

CUC reportedly experienced damage to some equipment during the 1998 to 2000 purchase of the chemical.

Despite the presence of the chemical in a storage room on Rota, the indictment stated that CUC purchased an additional 3,000 gallons in 2007, using a sole-source emergency purchase.

Man nabbed for alleged domestic violence on Tinian

Tinian police arrested over the weekend a 28-year-old man who allegedly beat up his wife several times, including flicking a burning cigarette on her face.

Leon Joaquin A. Sanchez was arrested for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

During yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a $100 cash bail and $900 unsecured bond for the temporary release of Sanchez.

Govendo set the arraignment for Dec. 9.

Detective Barbara K. Arend stated in her report that the victim first called the Tinian Department of Public Safety last Aug. 1 for police assistance.

According to the victim, Sanchez came to her office the previous day and threatened her with a knife by stabbing it on the table.

The victim said Sanchez entered her boss's office like he was looking for something. He then asked the victim why she didn't come home the night before.

The victim said that last July 29 Sanchez picked her up from work and when she told him that she had to change shift with her co-worker, he prevented her from doing so. When they arrived home he searched her body for kiss marks and then allegedly pushed her against the cabinet and slapped her face.

She alleged that during previous fights, he would slap her, slam her into the wall and push her to the floor. Sometimes he would sit on her back, choke her, and flick a burning cigarette on her face.

The police did not state why it took them that long to finally arrest the suspect. ***(Ferdie dela Torre)***

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POOR

From Page 1

not occur for the foreseeable future.

The loss of the Commonwealth's largest export industry, the garment industry, and a declining visitor industry will cut the CNMI economy in half, which in itself would have been difficult enough to overcome. When the U.S. Congress federalized the CNMI minimum wage and immigration, they probably killed what little hope there was for some reasonable and timely economic recovery through expansion of the visitor industry and economic diversification. This could decimate the CNMI's investment climate for years to come.

This does not even take into account the instability implicit in the power of the federal government to intervene in the CNMI at will regardless of how the application of federal law might affect economic or investment conditions in the CNMI. Instability is the bane of investment and economic development.

There is a strong possibility that economic distress would remain very high in the CNMI for a long time, evidenced by very high rates of unemployment, business closures or downsizing and precipitous declines in local revenues. These conditions could have a variety of adverse effects on a community.

1. Declining local revenues for health, education and general public welfare
2. Rising poverty, falling incomes, unemployment and underemployment
3. Declining economic opportunities for youth entering the workforce
4. Rising economic dependence on the federal government
5. Fewer resources to preserve the indigenous culture and the physical environment
6. Increased family and social stress
7. Rising delinquency and crime

This could be an economic, political and social disaster in the absence of some relief from the burdens of the recent federalization of immigration and the minimum wage in the CNMI.

In the longer term the CNMI and the US must consider complete economic recovery. It must also consider what might be done to prevent such tragedies in the future. The CNMI's prospects for economic recovery are very poor. The garment industry has virtually disappeared in the CNMI. Even if measures were now taken to improve its international competitive position, the federalization of immigration and the minimum wage would prevent reasonable recovery. This federalization will prevent new industries from developing in the CNMI to offset the enormous employment losses anticipated.

All of this was done with the full federal knowledge of the likely adverse economic effects on the CNMI. It appears now that the only real hope is to persuade the federal government, the Congress or the courts that the US must begin taking its territories and its responsibilities to them more seriously. It must remedy what it has done to the CNMI.

Recommendations for action are as follows:

1. Repeal the statute extending the US Immigration laws to the CNMI.
2. Provide emergency financial assistance to respond to the economic crisis in the CNMI.
3. Data Requirements: The CNMI could have made a stronger case for more appropriate application of the U.S. minimum wage and immigration systems if better local data had been available. The most important requirements are to gather selected information on key economic parameters in as timely a manner as possible and then build a data base as far back as possible for each data series.
4. Amend the statute extending the U.S. minimum wage to the CNMI.
5. Provide effective representation in the U.S. Executive Branch.
6. Create a stronger partnership between the private and public sectors.
7. Seek federal assistance to small investors.
8. Consider amending the Covenant.

CUC

From Page 1

work itself, with some aspects of the job contracted out to other companies.

This is because Engines 5 and 7 may need more than just an overhaul, according to CUC executive director Antonio Muña.

"The overhaul might not be the remedy," Muna said. "As they take it apart, there might be issues that need more than just an overhaul."

The engines were last overhauled in 2003.

The utility company issued an invitation to bid in July, after it terminated the contract of the previous contractor, Guam-based DCM Group. DCM reportedly failed to repair the generators as required by the $5.1 million deal.

Last week Muña said the utility company did not get a responsive bid from either two companies that had earlier expressed interest.

"Anyone coming in here is going to look at what's on the ground and is going to be overwhelmed," Muña said earlier this month. .

"When we start talking about the overhaul, you can go to the manual and go to the page, 'This is what you need to do on an overhaul.' The problem you have is that because of the neglect, you may need more than what the manual says for the overhaul. And that we cannot ascertain until you take the engine apart," he added.

Muña said he has since decided to pursue the rehabilitation work with CUC mechanics and engineers, augmented by other staff.

"I think from our standpoint, that's a better approach," he said.

CUC then will break down the work into sections and contract the jobs out.

"And what they're going to do is basically say, 'OK, when they take the engine a part, here's a job. We're going to contract this part of the job.' We're going to break it down into pieces," he said.

Outside companies are not knowledgeable about past work on the engines, but CUC engineers and mechanics are, he said.

"The bidders don't have access to what exactly [CUC's engineers and mechanics] know because what exactly they do know, we just don't have the documentation for," Muña said.

Muña said CUC would finance the project with the $3.8 million the company is requesting from the Office of Insular Affairs, along with leftover funding, for a total of $5.4 million.

"Taking this approach will probably give us a better return on investment in terms of getting the production we want," he said.

Muña had earlier said engines 5 and 7 could produce 22 megawatts of power, which could cover the 15 megawatts of power that will be lost when the Aggreko contract ends next year.

FISHING

From Page 1

Police Officer Jason Tarkong said yesterday that Dr. Martin Rohringer pronounced the victim dead upon arrival at the Commonwealth Health Center Sunday at 5:47pm.

"This case is still under investigation and any further information will be reviewed and made available pending approval," Tarkong said.

He withheld the victim's name but described him as a 42-year-old Chuukese.

Tarkong said that on Sunday at 7:41am the Emergency Management Office called DPS Central to report a dead person.

EMO informed DPS that one of the crew members of a fishing boat fell into the water. EMO said crew members recovered the victim near the Guguan Island but he was already dead.

Tarkong said the boat—M/V S*an Antonio*, a 42-foot fishing vessel—arrived at Smiling Cove Marina on Saipan Sunday at 5:25pm.

He said the victim had no pulse and was not breathing. "The body was stiff and rigor mortis had already set in," he added.

Based on detective Elias Saralu's interview with the boat's captain, Tarkong said the vessel departed Saipan last Thursday at 5pm to go fishing on Pagan.

The boat arrived on Pagan Friday night and the crew started trolling early Saturday morning. The crew then proceeded to the islands of Alamagan and Guguan.

On Saturday at 6:30pm, the crew stopped fishing because the water was too rough. The boat captain turned the boat around to go back to Saipan.

As the vessel was passing Guguan, the victim got up and walked outside the boat's cabin. The captain told the victim to wait because the water was too rough.

The victim was last seen outside on the rear of the boat when crew members heard him shout. The victim was seen floating in the water and the captain stopped the boat and put it into reverse to start rescue operations.

After repeated throws of a rope with a buoy attached to it, the victim finally grabbed it. It, however, took the crew 20 minutes to finally pull the victim in.

By that time, the victim had no pulse and was no longer breathing. The crew tried to resuscitate the victim but failed to revive him.

The captain continued driving the boat toward Saipan and attempted to contact EMO and Civil Defense, but got to response.

It was Sunday at 7am when EMO finally responded to their emergency call. At that time, the boat was next to the island of Anatahan.

The boat later had engine problems. The crew was forced to stop and repair the engine. The vessel finally arrived on Saipan Sunday night. The victim was then transported to CHC.

FOUR

From Page 1

velopment Inc., allegedly at an unreasonably low rental rate.

According to the lawsuit filed by Ramon M. San Nicolas, Vicente C. Aldan, Tarsicio Olopai, and Juan M. Deleon Guerrero, the Commonwealth will lose a minimum of $16.6 million for the full 40-year term of the lease agreement.

The plaintiffs, through counsel Edward Manibusan, challenged the legality of the lease, saying its terms are not commercially reasonable, contrary to the public interest, and are in violation of Article 11 of the CNMI Constitution.

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said that Fitial is determined to defend and support this major investment for the Commonwealth. Reyes said the governor is confident that their position will prevail in court.

He said the governor is disappointed with the filing of the lawsuit, saying it has no merits and does not support the best interest of the CNMI.

"The governor expressed confidence that this was the right decision and it's a decision that was made in the best economic interest of the Commonwealth," Reyes said.

He pointed out that Kumho Asiana made a substantial investment commitment to the CNMI, not only to develop the property—the golf resort—into a multi-million dollar resort development, but also in terms of bringing additional flight capacity.

The plaintiffs asked the Superior Court to prevent DPL and DelRosario from proceeding with development of the property until the court makes a decision on the case.

The plaintiffs demanded that the lease be set aside as null and void. They also sought payment of attorney's fees and court costs.

The CNMI government, through DPL and DelRosario, leased the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort to Saipan Laulau Development Inc. on Dec. 6, 2007. SLDI is wholly owned by Kumho Holdings (H.K.) Co. Ltd.

According to Manibusan, SLDI is owned by persons who are not of NMI descent.

Prior to entering the lease agreement, Manibusan said, Fitial and DelRosario failed to solicit or consider any other proposals for the lease of the property.

Manibusan said "DPL and Fitial knew or should have known that the appraised value of the land was inaccurate and extremely low and that the lease agreement predicated on these terms was not in the best interest of the people of the CNMI."

"To ensure a commercially reasonable return on the rental of prime public property and that a lease of prime public land for commercial development was in the public interest, the Governor and the DPL Secretary had a duty to publicize the availability of the property for private use, in advance of leasing it, in order to solicit proposals from potential lessees," he asserted.

The lawyer said that in failing to solicit competing proposals for the development of the property prior to entering into the lease agreement and by agreeing to an unreasonably low lease of the property, Fitial and DelRosario breached their fiduciary duty to the people of the CNMI.

Manibusan said DelRosario leased the property to SLDI for a total rental of $4,120,080, payable in five installments at $103,002 per year.

The fair market value of the property in a proposed lease agreement transmitted to the 16th NMI Legislature was $6,460,000, based on the value of vacant land.

Manibusan pointed out that the fair market value of the property as improved and set forth in the Dec. 6, 2007, lease agreement is $17,167,000.

He said the fair rental value of the property for the full 40-year term of the lease should generate revenues for the CNMI in the amount of at least $20,672,000, or about $516,800 per year.

Manibusan said that because Del Rosario failed to include a provision in the lease for the rent to periodically increase over the term of the lease and because the DPL Secretary granted the lessee considerable and extensive rental deductions, the fair rental value is understated.

For the full 40-year term of the lease, he said, the CNMI people will lose a minimum of $16,551,920.

Manibusan said the fair rental value of the property for the 40-year term of the lease is at least $20,6762,000 or $12.80 per square meter.

The DPL Secretary, however, the lawyer said, leased the property to SLDI for the sum of $4,120,080, or $2.55 per square meter.

He said based on the DPL's assessment of the fair rental value, without consideration of the other economic terms of the lease or a independent assessment of the true value of the land, Fitial and Del Rosario leased the property to SLDI for 19.9 percent of its fair rental value.

Manibusan said the lease agreement departs from the standard lease in several respects.

First, Manibusan said, the lease does not contain any public benefit obligations characterizing most, if not all, other CNMI public lands leases for golf courses and resorts.

Second, he said, while Fitial has made much of the magnitude of the lessee's investment in the CNMI, the lease is devoid of any concrete and definite obligations binding this lessee to make any such investment.

Third, he said, there is no public access guarantee, nor is there any junior golf programs or fundraising programs required of the lessee.

Fourth, Manibusan pointed out, the lease does not require the lessee to continue programs for students of Kagman High School, Junior Golf, and outreach programs to the local community.

Fifth, he said, no provision in the lease agreement requires the lessee to invest any definite amount in the construction of the facilities.

"The lessee has been further afforded certain preferential tax treatment by the government, further reducing the actual investment resources into the Commonwealth," he said.

Manibusan said well after the lease had been consummated, Fitial approved a plan to provide up to $18 million in tax relief for the lessee.

"Fitial continues to pressure the Commonwealth Development Authority for additional financial concessions, in order to add even more benefits under the qualifying certificate program for the lessee," he said.

Children donate toys, clothes, food to Karidat

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, students of Sister Remedios Early Childhood Learning Center donated toys, clothes, canned goods and dry food to Karidat Social Services.

Four of the kids—Ruleyna Camacho, Victoria Dela Cruz, Jacob Mareham and Joe Mareham—turned over the items to the Karidat office yesterday.

School principal Sr. Martha Ramarui, PTA member Frank Camacho, parent Karla Mareham and staff Leroy Villagomez accompanied the children in handing over the donations to Karidat executive director Angie V. Deleon Guerrero.

"I want to thank them for these wonderful gifts. This will be given to poor families," she said.

Ramarui said that about three weeks ago, they talked to the kids' parents about this kind of activity as part of teaching the children about sharing, in time for Thanksgiving Day, which is on the fourth Thursday of this month (Nov. 27).

"We are very grateful to their parents. We are very proud of them," Ramarui said.

She said it is very important for kids to see that sharing starts from the family and this project will teach them how to share what they have to the poor while they are still young. *(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)*

KARIDAT
A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service
P.O. Box 745, SPN, MP 96950
Sister Remedios School Thanksgiving Food Drive For Karidat

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Four kids—Ruleyna Camacho, Victoria Dela Cruz, Jacob Mareham and Joe Mareham, from the Sister Remedios Early Childhood Learning Center—hold some of the toys they and the rest of the school's students donated to the Karidat Social Services yesterday. Also in photo are parent Frank Camacho, school staff Leroy Villagomez, Karidat executive director Angie Deleon Guerrero, parent Karla Mareham and school principal Sister Martha Ramarui.

UWM launches fundraising for murdered MHS security guard

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The United Workers Movement launched yesterday a fundraising campaign for the late Efren Ballesteros, the Filipino security guard who was killed during a robbery at the Marianas High School on Nov. 17.

Ballesteros, who left behind five children, will be flown home within the week, but there is no definite date yet.

Record showed that the victim failed to renew his membership with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration since 2006. The annual renewal fee is just $25. It would have entitled him to the P200,000 life insurance payments and P20,000 for burial, for a total of $220,000 (about $4,400).

OWWA welfare officer Reynaldo Tayag said they could not extend any monetary assistance to Ballesteros or his family because he was an inactive member.

However, Tayag said, OWWA could still provide assistance while the body is at the hospital, informing his family back home about what happened and bringing the body to the airport.

The United Workers Movement said it condemns the killing and the manner with which Ballesteros was killed.

"The worker community of the CNMI mourns his untimely passing," the group said in a statement asking for monetary support.

"The proceeds of this fundraising will partly pay for the cost to bring his body from NAIA Airport in Manila, Philippines to his province in Isabela," said the solicitation letter signed by UWM president Irene Tantiado.

The remaining collection will be given to his two young children here on Saipan

"If you have any questions about this fundraising, kindly contact me at 285 7717. Thank you very much for your generosity. We assure you that your assistance will go a long way in helping the family of Efren," UWM said.

Longer terms pushed for election commissioners

Members of the Commonwealth Election Commission will be able to serve an unlimited number of terms under a bill now bound for a final vote in the Senate.

The House of Representatives has approved legislation that would remove the term limits imposed upon the election commissioners. Currently, the commissioners can serve no more than two consecutive four-year terms.

The bill, which originated from the Senate, will become law once the Upper House accepts the technical amendments made by the Lower House, and the governor signs the bill.

The House Committee on the United States and Foreign Affairs, which reviewed the bill, notes that the relatively smaller communities of Tinian and Rota have a restricted pool of potential appointees for the Commonwealth Election Commission. The committee adds that this difficulty could hamper the commission's functions since the commission cannot meet and take official action unless there is a member present from all three senatorial districts.

"As a matter of policy, it is logical to remove the limited term provision," the committee states.

All 18 members present during the session voted in favor of the bill. Representatives Diego Benavente and Joseph Reyes were absent.

The members currently sitting on the Election Commission are chairwoman Frances M. Sablan, Elizabeth DLG. Aldan, Melvin B. Sablan, Jose L. Itibus, and Jesus M. Sablan, all from Saipan; Donald M. Hofschneider and Jose P. Kiyoshi from Tinian; and Miranda V. Manglona from Rota. One seat for Rota is vacant. *(Agnes E. Donato)*

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House OKs new licensing body for colleges

The House of Representatives has approved legislation creating a new licensing board for postsecondary educational institutions in the Commonwealth.

The bill, now awaiting Senate approval, will implement the constitutional amendment that voters ratified in last year's election to strip the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents, which also acts as the State Board of Regents, of its power to license private colleges and universities.

Under the ratified initiative, the authority of the NMC Board of Regents will be confined to managing the publicly funded college. The authority to license private postsecondary schools will be given to a new entity to be called the Higher Education Commission.

The new commission was proposed after Saipan University defrauded nearly 100 Chinese students using a provisional license intended for the Tinian University approved by the State Board of Higher Education.

Proponents for the initiative said the NMC board should focus on running the college. They noted that the application review process entailed by the Board of Regents' licensing mandate is lengthy and takes up to approximately 50 hours per application.

Postsecondary educational institutions currently licensed by the State Board of Regents include the International Business Professional College and Eucon International College. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Palms re-opens Japanese buffet

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@Saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Palms Resort Saipan reopened their Japanese buffet yesterday.

The restaurant was closed for about a year, but the hotel's new management decided to reopen the restaurant during the lunch hours, said Minako Kayagaki, Advertising Sales representative for the hotel.

The restaurant caters not only to hotel guests but also to local residents, she said.

"The local market really loves Japanese," Kayagaki said.

Kayagaki said they are hoping about100 people eat at the restaurant each day.

The lunch buffet is open Monday through Saturday.

Adults are $18 and children are $13. There is a discount for locals.

KRISTI EATON

A Palms Resort chef prepares food yesterday during the lunch buffet. The buffet was re-opened after being closed for about a year.

DPS to launch anti-drunk driving campaign

The Department of Public Safety will be kicking of the 2008 3D (Drunk and Drugged Driving) prevention program tomorrow, Nov. 26, 2008, to inform he public that DPS will be out in full force looking for and cracking down on impaired drivers this holiday season.

Drunk driving is one of America's deadliest crimes. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in December 2005, 1,033 people were killed in crashes involving a driver with an illegal blood alcohol concentration level of .08 or above.

"Because the holiday season between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day is one of the deadliest and most dangerous times on our roadways due to impaired driving, we will be conducting sobriety checkpoints, saturation patrols and using undercover officers to get more drunk drivers off the road," said DPS spokesman Police Officer Jason T. Tarkong.

Designating a sober driver and not letting friends drive drunk are just two of several simple steps to help avoid a tragic crash or an arrest for impaired driving.

DPS is asking for volunteers who are interested in being designated drivers to show up with a copy of their driver's license tomorrow, Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2008 at DPS Central at 6pm and meet with Police Officer John Cabrera.

There will also be a proclamation signing at DPS Central tomorrow at 11am. ***(DPS)***

Sobriety checkpoints tomorrow

The Saipan Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting DUI/ Sobriety checkpoints tomorrow, Nov. 26, 2008.

The first checkpoint will be held on Beach Road Chalan Kanoa, by Carmen Safeway. This operation will start at approximately 7:30pm and will end at about 9:15pm.

The second checkpoint will be conducted on the same date on Chalan Pale Arnold Road, in Gualo Rai, by the Saipan Cockfight from 1:30am to about 2:45am.

All checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain. In addition to the checkpoints, officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions and laser activities. ***(DPS)***

Masga featured in currency magazine

Floyd R. Masga, an avid coin and currency collector, was recently featured in Krause Publication's November issue of *Numismatic News 1st. Annual State of the Industry Special Report*, a weekly publication magazine in the U.S. that has been a source for current market prices for coin and paper money collectors since 1952.

Floyd

When asked why Masga collects coins, he said, "First and foremost, I enjoy collecting coins for their historical significance and value. Imagine holding a circulated coin that's over 100 years old. The question comes to mind, who has held this coin and where was this coin a hundred years ago? Wow!"

Esther Rasa Babauta, Masga's mother, was also an avid coin and currency collector. "She was an accountant for a department store on Saipan and tried to buy all the silver U.S. coins that came into the stores," Masga said. "When I turned 15 years old, she gave me her entire coin and currency collection!"

Masga said he was the only one among his siblings who was interested in collecting coins. As a young collector, he was careful not to use his collection to buy gum or soda. "After that, I could not stop collecting coins," said Masga.

Numismatic news provides weekly reports on market trends and news concerning collectible Gold, Silver, Platinum, U.S. coins and paper money. Masga is currently a Social Studies instructor at the Saipan Southern High School. ***(PR)***

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CNMI GOVERNMENT

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PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **JOSE P. SAN NICHOLAS**
Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board Meeting** will be held on Friday, **November 28, 2008 at 11:30 a.m.** at the Napu Room – Pacific Islands Club Saipan, MP 96950.

AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes
   • October 15, 2008
2) **Public Comments**
   a. Improving Diving in the Marianas
3) **Committee Reports**
   a. Finance
   b. Policy
   c. Personnel
   d. Ad Hoc Reports
4) **Old Business**
   a. General Membership Meeting update
   b. Contracts for renewal
      i. Legal Counsel
   c. Email poll results for ratification
      i. Saipan Marathon
5) **New Business**
   a. 2009 Active Senior Campaign
   b. Asiana Airlines Busan Branch Golf Tournament
   c. HANA Tour Busan's "Let's go to Marianas with Star Baseball Players" package tour
   d. Incentive Program for Youngnam Region
   e. ESL Program Promotion
   f. Supporting LG Twins Baseball Team's Winter Training in Saipan
   g. Saipan Island Volume Incentive Promotion Plan for the agents
   h. Tinian Island Volume Incentive Promotion Plan for the agents
   i. Rota Island Volume Incentive Promotion plan for the agents
   j. RATA News
   k. 2009 MVA Official Calendar production
   l. Renewal of MVA Korea office
   m. Office Copier Contract
   n. Installation of Railings at Suicide Cliff, Tinian
6) **Executive Session**
7) **Adjournment**

/s/ Jerry Tan
Chairman, MVA Board of Directors

ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION (RCGC)
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 1547 ROTA, MP 96951

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, the RCGC's regular monthly meeting will be held as follows:

DATE : Wednesday, November 26, 2008
TIME : 3:00 P.M.
LOCATION : Tatachog Public Library Annex Building

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Adoption of Agenda
IV. Adoption of minutes
V. Chairman's Report
VI. Old Business
1. Casino Consultant
VII. New Business
1. RCGC Funding
VIII. Miscellaneous
IX. Adjournment

**At anytime during meeting, the commission may move to executive session.*

Diego M. Songao
Chairman

_____
Date

Mental Health Planning Council
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Quarterly Meeting

November 26, 2008
Pacific Islands Club
Napu Room
9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call
   C. Adoption of Agenda
   D. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting
II. Old Business
   A. Committee Meeting Updates/Reports
   B. Council / Coalition Projects/Report
   C. Rota Report
   D. Tinian Report
   E. TLC Update
   F. Clubhouse Update
III. New Business
   A. Block Grant Review Results
   B. Implementation Report Status
   C. Alternatives Conference Report
IV. Miscellaneous/Announcements
V. Next Meeting - Next Year's Meeting Dates
VI. Adjournment

Teaching travel agents, media about the CNMI

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the annual Marianas Tourism Academy pose for a souvenir picture.

Travel agents and media representatives from major cities across Japan recently attended the annual Marianas Tourism Academy 2008, held Nov. 10-13. Sponsored by the Marianas Visitors Authority along with the Japan Saipan Travel Association, this popular event enrolled nearly 50 people.

The program provided the CNMI's travel industry affiliates the opportunity to familiarize themselves with CNMI attractions, activities and facilities. Through the academy, participants learned more about the unique CNMI features that would appeal to Japanese tourists. They experienced optional tours and hotel inspections, as well as site visits of businesses that specialize in marketing segments such as Active Senior, Spa, Wedding, Island Tours, Group, and Marathon/Walking. A highlight of the Academy was a sunset dinner held on Managaha Island.

This annual Tourism Academy increases knowledge of the CNMI by frontline travel agency personnel. As Perry Tenorio, MVA managing director, noted, "Everyone wins. The Academy offers learning opportunities for those who deal directly with our tourists and help them plan their trips to Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Plus it provides a chance for CNMI tourism professionals to host these experts and get to know them in a positive and meaningful way."

This year's Tourism Academy was made possible through the support of several MVA members: Continental Airlines, Northwest Airlines, JSTA, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Aqua Resort Club, Hafa Adai Beach Hotel, Tasi Tours, Sand Castle, Saipan Sanko, and other optional tour companies. MVA staff members instrumental in planning and coordinating this event were Marketing Specialists Hiroko Tenorio and Brenda Repeki. ***(MVA)***

Does your boss deserve an award?

The Guam-CNMI Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a local agency of the Department of Defense, announced yesterday that it will host for the first time in Guam and the CNMI an awards ceremony to honor its "Top Employers of 2008".

The local ceremony, scheduled to take place next year, will recognize Guam and CNMI employers that go "above and beyond" to provide extraordinary support of its employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

According to Maj. Gen. Benny Paulino, U.S. Army retired, ESGR Guam-CNMI Committee chair, "The ESGR awards were created to publicly recognize American employers who provide extraordinary patriotic support and cooperation to their employees, who like the Minute Men before them, have answered their nation's call to serve. Supportive employers are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the nation's National Guard and Reserve units."

Some examples of extraordinary support include employers who have reviewed and amended their current human resources policies to ensure compliance with the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act Law.

Many employers provide "above and beyond" support with pay differential to offset the loss of wages, and extension of health care benefits which complement coverage provided by the military when their employees are mobilized.

In order for an employer to qualify for a state award, such as the Pro Patria or Above and Beyond Award, or the National Freedom Award, the employer must have, as a minimum, been nominated by one of its employees to receive a Patriot Award and have signed a Statement of Support.

If you believe you have an employer who deserves a local or a federal employer award, but are unsure what the eligibility criteria is, contact Capt. Josephine Blas, Public Affairs director. ***(PR)***

Vendors sought for Puengin Inetnon

The Kagman Komunidat Association is looking for interested vendors to sell food, clothing, games, and other types of family oriented entertainment for "Puengin Inetnon."

"Puengin Inetnon" is Chamorro for "a night of gathering."

It will be similar to the Thursday Night Street Market in Garapan except that it will be held every government payday Friday at the Kagman Community Center. Interested vendors, volunteers, and performers may call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST for more info. ***(PR)***

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GCA, SCS students top 'Coke Side of Life' art competitions

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Janela Revilla of Grace Christian Academy and James Ko of Saipan Community School shared the limelight in the just concluded "Coke Side of Life" can decoration and poster making contests.

Glimpses of Saipan, which organized the competition, said that Revilla, an 8th grader, garnered an average score of 98.33, after two of the three judges gave her perfect scores of 100 with her "opus eponymous" poster design.

Menalie S. Pacia, a senior at Marianas High School, settled for second place with a similar colorful work titled "Coke Side of Music" while Yeo Jin Lee, an 8th grade at SCS, was third with her entry titled "Coke Makes Everyone Happy."

James Ko's entry was adjudged the best decorated can with his hula-inspired creation, earning an average of 96.67 points. The 8th grade Ko also got two perfect scores of 100 from two judges.

Young Chae Han, also an 8th grade at SCS, was second. Her entry was titled "Coke Flower Windmill."

Revilla, who submitted an untitled painted Coke can, placed third.

"I'm so happy. I have been joining in similar art competitions before," said Revilla, who was accompanied by parents Leah and John and a younger sister during Friday's exhibit of their work at the Glimpses of Saipan office in the Transpac Business Center.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

"Coke Side of Life" can decoration winners, from left, Young Chae Han, 2nd place, James Ko, 1st place; and Janela Revilla, 3rd place, show off their winning entries during Friday's awarding ceremony at Glimpses of Saipan office at the Transpac Business Center.

Last year, her first time on the island, she also placed first in a poster-making contest.

"Back home in the Philippines, she was very active in these kinds of activities," said her proud mother, who added that her other daughter and even her husband, a nurse at the Commonwealth Health Center, is good in this craft.

Each of the top three winners in both contests brought home prizes, including gift certificates for Coke and Foremost products, gas certificates from Shell Marianas, and certificates for six-foot long Subway Party Subs, footlong and six-inch Subway sandwiches.

Local artists Noel Quitugua, Barry Wonenberg and Jeanne Rayphand served as judges.

Glimpses said they used blind judging, with each entry identified only by number. Entries for each contest were judged based on several criteria and with corresponding points—creativity (40), artistic quality (30), adherence to the theme (20), and adherence to contest rules (10).

Corporate sponsor Coca-Cola launched the worldwide advertising campaign with the tagline "Coke Side of Life," highlighting the iconic contour bottle.

Glimpses said that here on Saipan, the contests took off from the campaign tagline and gave students free rein on how they would interpret and visualize any facet of life with Coke.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Poster making contest first place winner Janela Revilla, center, is flanked by second placer Menalie S. Pacia and third placer Yeo Jin Lee during the awarding ceremony at Glimpses of Guam office at the Transpac Business Center last Friday.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

To: Homesteaders

The Department of Public Lands Homestead Division will be conducting their monthly site inspections on November 26, 2008, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Areas to be inspected will be As Matuis, Kagman, Dandan and Koblerville homesteads.

Thank you

Homestead Division

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

November 25,1999

The face of HIV infection

He thought it was a relationship based on trust. But 39-year old Moses Saburo was wrong. After four years of living with his partner in the U.S. mainland, Mr. Saburo found out in 1996 that he has been infected with HIV, the virus that causes the development of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). "I had a trusting relationship with someone that I thought I knew very well and that she was clean and free from HIV. The only time I found out that she was infected was when she died of AIDS," he said.

U.S. Senate adjourns

House Speaker Diego T. Benavente yesterday expressed relief that the U.S. Senate has yet to vote on legislation seeking extension of federal immigration laws to the Northern Marianas, which he said has given more time for island leaders to stave off such takeover proposal. Senators in Washington D.C. adjourned its first session last Nov. 24 and went on sine die without deliberating on the proposal contained in Senate Bill 1052. They are scheduled to convene their second session in the 106th Congress on January 24, 2000. On Nov. 1, the measure was reported out to the floor by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which recommended favorably on the bill, and was placed immediately on the legislative calendar for voting.

November 25,2000

Govt owes NMIRF $92M

The CNMI government's debt to the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund has now ballooned to a staggering $92.043 million in all, representing unpaid contributions and the Fund's supposed share in several taxes. These unsettled obligations have resulted in the Fund incurring a shortfall of $720,051 every month, since its monthly revenue is not enough to cover for all its monthly obligations, such as pensions. These came to light during Friday's Board of trustees meeting, with Fund comptroller Noel Soria stressing that these outstanding obligations by the CNMI government is just with the Retirement Fund, and does not include its other obligations under the Group Health and Life Insurance Program and the Workers Compensation Commission.

Inmate cry prison 'mismanagement'

Former Coastal Resources Management Office director Felipe Q. Atalig-a prisoner until he completes his jail term tomorrow-has taken the cudgels for his fellow inmates in complaining against the alleged mismanagement happening inside the corrections facility. Department of Public Safety commissioner Edward Camacho quickly responded to Atalig's allegations, saying yesterday that he would task the Director of Corrections to look into the ex-CRM director's complaint. Atalig, convicted of sexually harassing a female employee during his tenure as CRMO's chief, complained of the situation inside the jail in a letter to Camacho. Besides furnishing certain lawmakers and Personnel Management Director Juan I. Tenorio copies of his letter,Atalig also provided copies of this to the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SNILD 'condemns' senators' suspension

Members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation get ready to convene the session late yesterday afternoon at the House Chamber. Lawmakers of the Third Senatorial District stayed in session for a couple of hours mostly airing their frustrations and anger over the decision by the Senate majority to suspend all three Saipan senators. (Marian A. Maraya) The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation voted 14-0 last night to "condemn" the Senate majority's action suspending Saipan senators Pete P. Reyes, Ramon S. Guerrero and Thomas P. Villagomez, and Tinian senator David M. Cing for 30 days. In a session that started nearly 5pm at the House chamber, Third Senatorial District lawmakers united to protest the suspension that has left Saipan and the Northern Islands without representation in the upper house. A number of Saipan community members were at the chamber gallery to offer their support to the delegation. Some came with placards that read: "Rota-Tinian: What you make you take. No make no take."

Tuhu Producton wins best booth at Sabalu market

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A family-run fruit stall was adjudged the best booth during a competition among members of the Saipan Sabalu Farmers Market Association on Saturday to celebrate Thanksgiving Day.

Tuhu Producton Lancharro, owned and managed by Eugenio Borja and family, made a Christmas tree using different kinds of fruits like papaya, mango, cocoa, tangerine, and soursop (guyabano) as decoration, earning the nod of the three judges. Other products on display were bananas and tropical flowers.

"We're so glad," said Borja's son, Ike. His daughter Auria and grandchild Michelle helped him with the concept. They pocketed the top prize of $100.

Carmen's Nursery, specializing in orchids, placed second for $75, Food Merchant International (fruits and vegetables) was third for $50 and Saipan Farm and Garden settled for fourth and won $25.

There are a total of 34 members of the association.

The group's president, Bill Ada, said the winners were judged based on the natural materials they used, creativity and compliance with the theme, "Thanksgiving to showcase the beauty of our islands."

Each booth was given a turkey and a sack of fertilizer.

"We are very happy with the big turnout. We also provided snacks for them and all visitors," Ada said.

The group also prepared lunch and live entertainment that spiced up the once-a-year special treat.

One of the organizers, Bernie Aldan, said this is a way of giving appreciation to the hard-working farmers and to motivate them to continue planting and harvesting.

"We thanked them and the members of the board for their full support of this event," she said.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Fruits are seen hanging on this Christmas tree, which formed part of the booth owned by the Avila-Borja family at the Thanksgiving celebration by the Saipan Sabalu Farmers Market Association on Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam president and board chair; Domonique Ong, 7th Grader at St. John's School, overall winner; Haley Cheong, 6th grader at St. Anthony Catholic School, 2nd prize winner; and Keven Roy Igtanloc, 5th Grader at St. Anthony School, 3rd prize winner.

BoG names winners of Christmas card contest

HAGATNA, Guam—The Bank of Guam named yesterday the winners of its 2nd Annual Christmas Card Contest for elementary and middle school students throughout Guam, the CNMI, Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Dominique Ong, a 7th grader student at St. John's School, was named the overall winner and won $250.

Haley Cheong, a 6th grader at St. Anthony Catholic School, won second prize and $175, while Kevin Roy Igtanloc, a 5th grader at St. Anthony Catholic School, won third prize and $100.

A gift basket of school and art supplies was also given to each winner.

The Bank of Guam received nearly 800 submissions from 28 schools throughout the islands.

The Christmas card design contest had the theme "Celebrating a Green Christmas." ***(BoG)***

JOETEN DONATION

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joeten Charitable Foundation and the Joeten group of companies led by Clarence T. Tenorio Sr. present their donation to Sr. Remedio's Early Childhood Development Center as the main sponsor in the successful 1st Annual Sr. Remedio's Memorial Walk-a-thon held last month.

The Office of Senator Joseph M. Mendiola would like to congratulate the winners of the Teacher of the Year Award, the Support Staff of the Year Award, and Teacher Aid of the Year Award for Tinian Elementary School and Tinian Junior Senior High School.
Thank you for a job well done. Our profound appreciation to your commitment and dedication in preparing the future of our community.
Teacher of the Year Tinian Junior Senior High School
Thaddis Jackson
Teacher of the Year Tinian Elementary School
Brenda Safer
Support Staff of the Year Tinian Jr. Sr. High School
Valerie T. Dela Cruz
Teacher Aid of the Year Tinian Elemtary School
Terry U. Sanchez
Support Staff of the Year Tinian Elemtary School
Rodel Manlulu

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Mind and soul

The Roman Catholic Church requires its priests to refrain from any sexual relationship, whether heterosexual or homosexual. So one might think that the sexual orientation of an aspirant for the priesthood would be a nonissue—especially in light of the distinction the church has drawn between homosexual conduct, which is considered sinful, and homosexual orientation, which is not.

One would be wrong.

The Vatican recently issued a statement re-emphasizing that even chaste gay men are to be barred from the priesthood. Never mind that large numbers of gay priests—estimates range from 25 percent to 50 percent—already serve the faithful, with most adhering to their vow of celibacy.

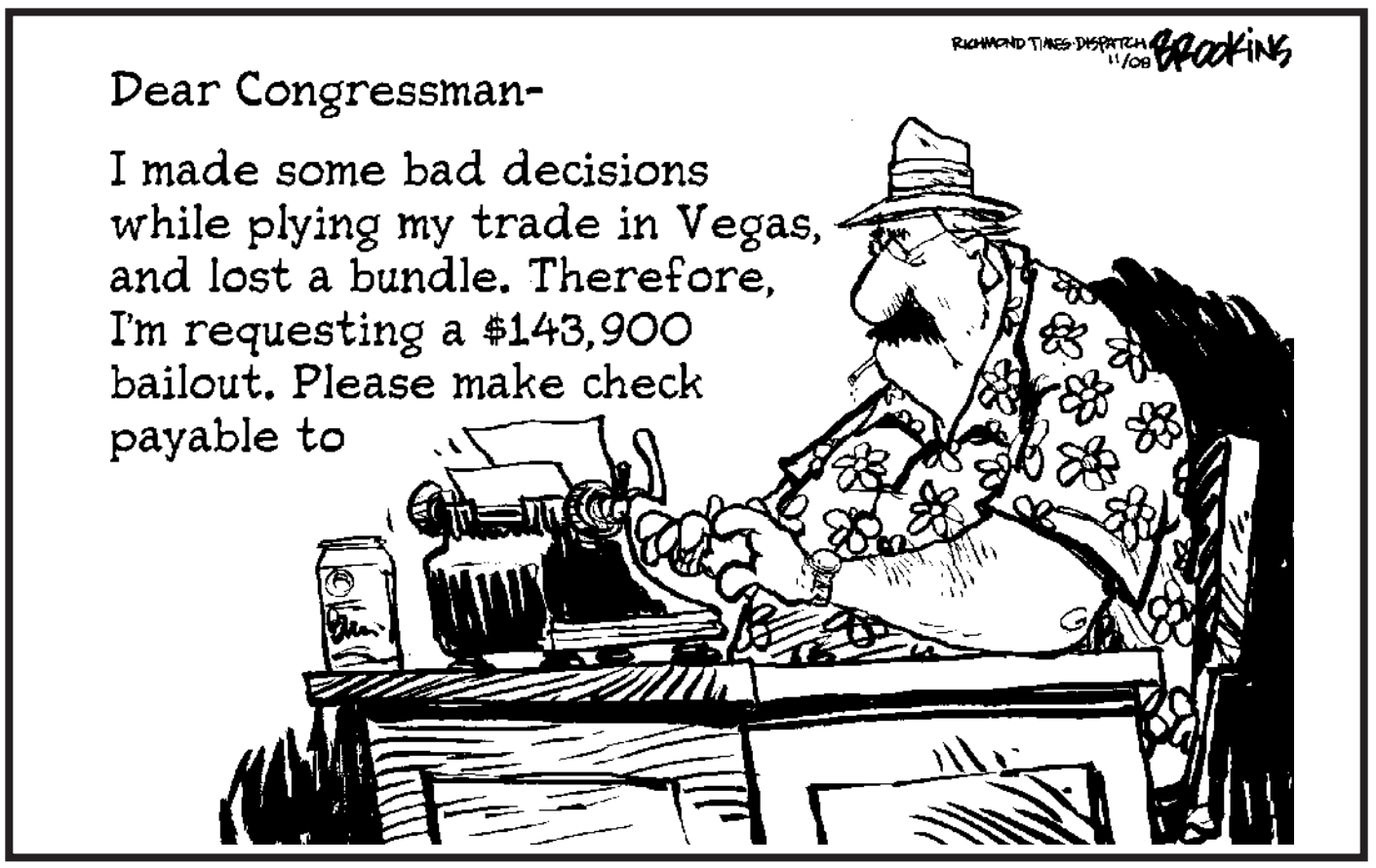
"Guidelines for the Use of Psychology in the Admission and Formation of Candidates for the Priesthood," released Oct. 30 by the Vatican's Congregation for Catholic Education, not only reiterates the teaching that men with "deep-seated" homosexual tendencies are unworthy of ordination, it also urges seminaries to enlist the aid of psychologists in screening candidates for homosexuality and other "psychic disturbances."

The Vatican's hard line against chaste gay priests seems to be inspired by the condemnation the church justly received for its passive response to the sexual abuse of minors—most of them male—by some priests. But, as Pope Benedict XVI conceded during his visit to the United States this year, homosexuality isn't the same as pedophilia. That statement was a rebuke to conservative Catholics, and others, who have attempted to equate the two. (Despite the pope's enlightened comments, he approved last month's statement.)

Obviously, the church must be free to define the qualifications for its clergy based on theological arguments that many outside (and within) the fold find unpersuasive. In this country, the First Amendment allows the church to bar homosexuals from the priesthood, just as it does women. But even many Catholics will be horrified by the idea of the church employing psychologists to "out" prospective priests. Nor is it much comfort that the psychological scrutiny will be voluntary. What young man who feels called to the priesthood will feel free to object?

To be fair, the Roman Catholic Church in the United States—including the Archdiocese of Los Angeles—operates under its own guidelines for the screening of prospective priests, which can include consultations with psychologists. Although the U.S. policy professes to adhere to Vatican pronouncements (and was approved by the pope), it seems to adopt a narrower definition of "deep-seated" homosexual inclination, one that allows gays to be ordained as long as their sexual orientation doesn't interfere with their ministry.

See MIX on Next Page


RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH 11/08 BROOKINS
Dear Congressman-
I made some bad decisions while plying my trade in Vegas, and lost a bundle. Therefore, I'm requesting a $143,900 bailout. Please make check payable to

The traits of a good reporter

By DEBORAH HOWELL
THE WASHINGTON POST

Good reporters are the heart of news gathering. If it's news, they have to know it. Without them, the public wouldn't have the news and information essential to running a democracy—or our lives. Whether the story is local, national or foreign, it has to be gathered on the ground by a reporter.

What makes a good reporter? Endless curiosity and a deep need to know what is happening. Then, the ability to hear a small clue and follow it. When *Post* reporter Dana Priest first heard "a tiny, tiny piece" of what turned out to be the Walter Reed Army Medical Center scandal, she couldn't ignore it.

She and colleague Anne Hull methodically followed the story until Army officials were shamed and did something about the poor care of many Iraq war veterans. Hull and Priest also have a quality essential to good reporting: empathy. They cared about those soldiers and had the ability to tell the story in a way that touched readers.

Retired *Post* executive editor Ben Bradlee thinks a reporter's most important quality is energy: "They've got to love what they're doing; they've got to be serious about turning over rocks, opening doors. The story drives you. It's part of your soul."

Reporters go where the story is—even if it's over a mountain pass in Afghanistan on horseback in a blinding blizzard. That's what *Post* reporter Keith B. Richburg and photographer Lucian Perkins did in late 2001 to find the front lines of a war between the Taliban and its enemies.

When dark smoke was billowing out of the telephone company building in downtown Minneapolis—10 minutes before deadline—*Minneapolis Star* reporter Randy Furst was on the story. He ran to the building and burst into a board of directors' meeting and asked the company president what was going on. The company flack called me the next day to complain about Furst's behavior; I thought it was great.

Good reporters are committed to telling the story. Associated Press reporter Terry Anderson ignored his boss's advice to leave war-torn Lebanon; he felt that he had to stay. He was kidnapped in 1985 and spent 6 1/2 years in brutal captivity.

Post foreign correspondent Anthony Shadid is a veteran of armed conflict in the Middle East; he was wounded by gunfire while working for the *Boston Globe*. What drives him? During wars, "work is all there is. I struggle with how you get beyond the pain of what you see to say something more. For me, every few months I try to figure how I could leave the profession, if for no other reason than to salvage soul and sanity."

But he hasn't, and he will go back to Iraq soon. "If you don't do it, the story might not be covered. Or it might not be covered the way you think it should be. Maybe it's equal parts responsibility, curiosity and ambition, hopefully more of the former than the latter. It's obligation, too. We're one of the few newspapers with the resources and ambition to still cover the story. And if we don't do it—as the story recedes from the front page, as staffing dwindles, as money dries up—no one else will."

Bob Woodward, *The Post*'s most renowned reporter, believes that good reporters do not let speed and impatience hinder them. They have the discipline to go to multiple sources at all levels of a story and get meticulous documentation—notes, calendars, memos. "You go down lots of holes that don't lead anywhere," but "in the end, what always matters is information that is authentic and can be analyzed and documented."

Most reporters don't go to Afghanistan or get shot at. But it often takes the same mental toughness to cover the police or hold local government officials accountable. District police reporter Theola Labbé-DeBose puts it this way: "I think what makes a good reporter is the dogged, unshaken belief that there is some way to obtain a seemingly impossible piece of information."

Good reporters are savvy enough to find sources they can trust—think Deep Throat—and, as Ernest Hemingway said, they have built-in b.s. detectors. Don't lie to a reporter; you'll be caught. Say you can't answer.

Woe to officials who want to make public decisions in private. Jim Shoop, a reporter on the old *Minneapolis Star*, found out about a secret meeting of Twin Cities mayors who were discussing setting up a metropolitan sales tax; he arrived early and curled up inside a portable bar in a corner of the room. He got the story.

Sometimes it's important just to hang out and build trust. *Post Metro* reporter Josh White was trying to find a stripper with drug problems befriended by the rogue FBI agent Robert Hanssen before he was caught spying. White visited most of the strip joints in town and got a lead that sent him to Columbus, Ohio, where he knocked, unannounced, and met her mother and toddler. After three days, the stripper came home to find White on her couch with her son in his lap watching TV. She gave him the story.

Good reporters know how to get access to people and documents; in the old days, a fifth of whiskey to the right janitor could get you a report lying on a city hall desk. Now a cadre of Post database and investigative reporters plows through mounds of hard-to-obtain government documents, looking for stories of fraud, patronage, waste and wrongdoing; they create spreadsheets and do the painstaking work of looking for patterns. The ability to sort out conflicting information is one of the hallmarks of good reporting.

Metro reporter Keith Alexander, reporting on the case of two girls who were found murdered and stuffed in a freezer in their home, spent days going over court files to find why their mother, accused of killing them, had been allowed to adopt them. The files told him the sad stories of their biological families; he was able to track them down and tell a deeper story of the tragedy.

A reporter's first commitment is getting the story for readers; it trumps almost everything. That's the reason they sometimes miss their wedding anniversaries or their children's birthday parties and keep on reporting until they are wheeled into surgery (see Shadid) or delivery rooms.

Reporting is a calling. If reporters didn't have it (along with good editors), how would you know what was going on in your communities, the nation and the world?

Howell is ombudsman for The Washington Post.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

More pain to come even if he's perfect

By JOSEPH STIGLITZ
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

This is one hell of a way to win.

Barack Obama owes his victory in large measure to the prospect of the longest and deepest economic downturn in a quarter-century and perhaps since the Great Depression. If he performs well, he could become a great president. If he flubs it, he could get the same reception as Jimmy Carter. In the crassest political terms, it was good luck to have the financial crisis hit so close to the election. But Obama's lucky streak will end in a hurry if he can't find a way out of this mess. He will also have to manage expectations: Even if he does everything perfectly, we probably won't turn the corner for 18 months, and the downturn could last far longer than that.

The first task facing President-elect Obama, after eight years of misguided economic policies, will be to begin the recovery—or at least forestall a further decline. It won't be easy. More than 1.2 million private-sector jobs have already been shed this year, and by the end of the year an estimated 1.15 million people will have exhausted their unemployment-insurance benefits. To make matters worse, when Americans lose their jobs, they typically lose their health insurance, too. Meanwhile, 3.8 million homes are under foreclosure, and states are facing massive revenue shortfalls; without assistance, they will have to cut spending, plunging the economy deeper into recession.

So some steps are obvious: assistance to homeowners and bankruptcy reform; extending unemployment insurance; and making up for the gap in state revenue. The United States also has an infrastructure deficit, not just a fiscal and trade deficit, which means that spending more on infrastructure (such as public transport and technology—especially of the green variety) will stimulate the economy in the short term and help us be more competitive in the long run.

But then matters start to get trickier. The economy obviously needs a direct shot in the arm, but the 44th president needs to be careful about the design of the stimulus he proposes. That's because President Bush will bequeath him a national debt—$10.5 trillion and rising—that has almost doubled since he took office, even before you factor in the full costs of the financial bailout and the Medicare prescription benefit, as well as the price tag for providing for the hundreds of thousands of returning Iraq war veterans.

To his credit, Obama knows much of this. During the campaign, he argued against cutting taxes on upper-income Americans, who have done so well in recent years. In addition to repealing the 2001-03 tax cuts for the wealthiest, Obama should also consider taxing dividends and capital gains at the same rate as ordinary income: It would reduce the deficit, have few short-term adverse effects on an already reeling economy and make the tax code more fair. After all, why should speculators—whether on oil, food or real estate—be taxed less than those who work long hours to make a living?

Another major problem Obama has to tackle is growing inequality in this country. Some of these trends will take decades to reverse, but ensuring that no Americans are denied a college education because they can't afford it, providing adequate funding for public primary and secondary schools and so forth would be a good beginning

Obama has also promised to wind down the war in Iraq. Spending a fraction of the war's cost—my estimate places the total at $3 trillion for our entire economy—on investments within the United States would help reduce the deficit and boost economic growth at home.

While the federal deficit looms over the Obama administration's economic deliberations, we must be careful not to let it block bold action. Sometimes, we're wiser to pay now rather than later. Borrowing for high-yielding investments (not just Wall Street bailouts) is common sense. The decisions not to reinforce the levees in New Orleans or upgrade the bridges in Minneapolis were penny-wise, pound-foolish blunders that we lived to regret.

The root of so many of our problems is the reeling financial sector. The plan cooked up by Bush and his Treasury secretary, Henry M. Paulson Jr., isn't likely to work, or work well enough. So Obama's team will have to wade in.

Another major problem Obama has to tackle is growing inequality in this country. Some of these trends will take decades to reverse, but ensuring that no Americans are denied a college education because they can't afford it, providing adequate funding for public primary and secondary schools and so forth would be a good beginning.

Already, the banks have been talking about using taxpayers' money for dividends, bonuses and acquiring other banks, rather than doing more lending, which was clearly what Congress had in mind for the $700 billion. U.S. taxpayers got a raw deal, compared to the terms won by other governments (such as Great Britain) or by the legendary investor Warren Buffett, who provided capital to the best capitalized investment bank, Paulson's own Goldman Sachs. Want further proof that Washington got a lousy deal? Look at how the markets reacted. The share prices of the bailed-out banks shot up, showing that investors expected net profits to rise substantially.

The U.S. financial sector, once the emblem of our economic success, has failed us. Financial markets are supposed to allocate capital and manage risk; instead, they squandered capital and created risk. Even more galling, the banks' chiefs raked in private rewards totally out of whack with what scant good they were doing for the wider society.

So Obama will have to push for major changes, in both regulations and the overall systems of carrots and sticks, to restore confidence, spur lending and ensure that our financial markets do what they are supposed to do. This may require, for instance, restricting some of the special benefits (such as easy-to-get Federal Reserve loans) granted to the banks in recent months only to well-behaved institutions that actually lend more and use publicly provided funds responsibly. And it means that the financial sector should not only fully repay the bailout funds it has received but also give taxpayers a return commensurate with the risks the country has undertaken. If that means taxing the banks, so be it. Wall Street would demand no less if it were doling out its own money.

Obama will also need to deal with some vast inefficiencies in our economy if we are to prevent further erosions in our standard of living. Some U.S. sectors are global leaders, such as our world-beating universities and the high-tech firms that thrive on the ideas hatched in our ivory towers. Others are embarrassing, such as health care, where Americans spend far more than citizens in many other industrialized countries and get underwhelming results. We need a bold approach here, reforming not just the way we provide medicine but also thinking more broadly about health. That means doing more about diseases associated with alcohol, drugs, tobacco and obesity, which have increasingly come to symbolize American over-consumption.

Similarly, we should think more broadly about the bang we get for our buck in international affairs. Our current military expenditures are a serious drain; we could get more security for far less money if we didn't waste so much on weapons systems that don't work or are designed to fight enemies that don't exist. (Think the Air Force's multibillion-dollar program for a new deep-strike bomber that would be completely useless against terrorists.) Moreover, we might be the richest country in the world, but we have been among the stingiest of the advanced industrial countries when it comes to fighting global poverty and disease. We devote only 0.16 percent of our world-leading GDP to foreign aid, among the lowest rates in the developed world. If we make the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund more democratic, we will lose some voting power, but we will gain tremendously in "soft power," or global influence.

Obama is also inheriting a climate crisis. The United States and China have been racing to see which nation will contribute most to the greenhouse gases that cause global warming. It looks as though China will win in absolute terms, but on a per capita basis, America takes the smoggy cake. We cannot save the planet without a global agreement, and we cannot get such an agreement without massive reductions in U.S. emissions. This transition could have upsides beyond the environmental ones. A carbon tax—or the auctioning of emissions permits—could generate huge revenues; some of those could be used to help Americans adjust to the new "green economy," while the rest could be used to reduce the deficit or lower taxes on workers. But we really have little choice here: Europe and other global players are likely to slap a carbon tax on U.S. goods if we don't deal with the issue at home. Their firms will not tolerate giving U.S. firms a competitive advantage simply because we refuse to bear our responsibility for the global environment.

We may be witnessing the birth of a new economic model. We have been treating two of the world's scarcest resources, air and water, as if they were actually free. No wonder we have paid so little attention to resource-saving innovations. Perversely, the U.S. tax code has actually been subsidizing the production of the very fossil fuels that contribute to global warming. We have been pursuing a policy that amounts to "Drain America first." It has made us even more dependent on oil imports—a stunningly short-sighted plan.

And in the rare cases when we have turned to renewable sources of fuel, we have done so in a manner driven by special interests, not by common sense. Subsidies to corn-based ethanol, for instance, offer little if any benefit to the environment; such handouts have been justified in the name of helping out an infant industry that will stand on its own feet if given a good start. But ethanol is an infant that has refused to grow up.

The new economic model will require changes in the ways and places where we live and work. There will be some losers (including the oil industry, which has done jarringly well in recent years), but there will be even more winners.

In so many ways, the United States has reached a low point. Picking ourselves up off the ground is itself no mean achievement. But I hope that our new president will do even more for us than that.

Joseph Stiglitz, a professor at Columbia University, won the Nobel Prize in economics in 2001. His latest book, with Linda J. Bilmes, is The Three Trillion Dollar War.

MIX

From Page 10

Yet even if the U.S. church is following a more compassionate policy than Vatican pronouncements would seem to authorize, the role of psychologists in screening applicants raises troubling ethical questions, as even psychologists who approve of such cooperation admit. Aiding the church in weeding out homosexuals is hard to reconcile with these guidelines of the American Psychological Association:

"Psychologists are aware of and respect cultural, individual and role differences, including those based on age, gender, gender identity, race, ethnicity, culture, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, language and socioeconomic status, and consider these factors when working with members of such groups. Psychologists try to eliminate the effect on their work of biases based on those factors, and they do not knowingly participate in or condone activities of others based upon such prejudices."

If the church—or a diocese within the church—takes the Vatican decree literally, it's hard to see how a psychologist could lend his or her expertise to the thwarting of a young man's aspiration to serve God simply because he happens to be gay. In our view, that's not just cruel; it's unprofessional.

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Letter to the Editor

Our right to decide

I associate myself with the views expressed by Rep. Stanley Torres on the proposed monument up north. That chubby brown-skinned baby has been swimming in the waters around these isles since time immemorial.

He's learned to fish to feed himself, reserves and conserves the balance of nature's gifts for his use at some point in the future. The land and water is his by birthright and did so all through the centuries without stifling federal regulations. It's illogical and definitely foolhardy to accede to arguments of *non-owners* of the land and sea in these pearly isles.

Perhaps we mean the same thing, but let us decide the conservation of what's rightfully the property by birthright of the indigenous people. That chubby kid in the water is too heavy to toss around at will. He ain't heavy, he's my brother! I am willing to slow down a bit to see that he and I walk side by side with the widest smile beamed into the infinitesimal allure of the blue skies of paradise.

Let us hold on to our birthrights! If you want a part of it, we're willing to review your applications and a timely response issued, thereafter. Biba Congressman Stanley Torres!

John S. DelRosario Jr.
As Gonno, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼79°	▲86° ▼80°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°

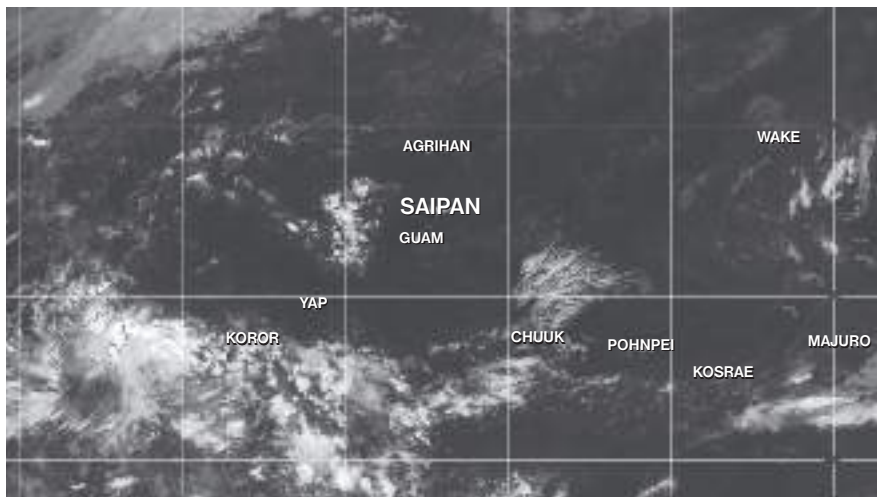
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86	▼77
Palau	Rain	▲86	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲90	▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼77
Majuro	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲70	▼55
Beijing	Sunny	▲45	▼28
Hong Kong	Rain	▲66	▼63
Honolulu	Showers	▲80	▼72
London	Cloudy	▲39	▼36
Los Angeles	Rain	▲68	▼54
Manila	Cloudy	▲88	▼75
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼50
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼63
New York	Showers	▲44	▼35
Osaka	Cloudy	▲58	▼41
Paris	Rain/Snow	▲43	▼33
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲57	▼39
Rome	Showers	▲55	▼45
Salem	Showers	▲51	▼35
San Francisco	Rain	▲60	▼50
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲54	▼28
Tokyo	Showers	▲56	▼41
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲47	▼32

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, MONDAY, NOV. 24, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from 25N158E to 16N135E. Extensive cloud cover and scattered showers can be found along and up to 300 miles northwest of this boundary. A surface trough extends northward from 2N140E to 8N141E. Convergence near and to the east of the trough is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Yap and Koror within an area bounded by a line from 7N137E to 2N138E to 4N146E to 6N146E back to 7N137E. Upper-level divergence in the favored quadrant of an upper-level low pressure centered near 12N152E is enhancing cloudiness, scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Chuuk within 125 miles of a line extending northeastward from 2N148E to 10N154E. An upper-level low centered near 15N172E is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Wake Island and over parts of the Marshall Islands within an area bounded by a line from 20N180 to 20N172E to 15N169E to 15N178E to 4N170E to 4N173E to 8N180 back to 20N180. Trade-wind showers can be found south of Pohnpei and Kosrae within 100 miles of a line extending eastward from 4n155e to 4n167e.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:10AM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
6:57AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
12:05PM Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
05:20PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:24AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:24AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:25AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:25AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:26AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:04AM	3:46PM
Wednesday	4:55AM	4:27PM
Thursday	5:47AM	5:12 PM
Friday	6:40AM	6:00 PM
Saturday	7:32AM	6:51 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 19, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:25am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:25am	11:05am	Daily

Saipan-Incheon

OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Saipan-Shanghai

FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:25am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:15am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Incheon-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:40am+1	3,4,6,7

Shanghai-Saipan

FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

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Business

More customers resume using old-fashioned cash

NEW YORK (AP)—Cash or credit? For more Americans, who have already maxed out their credit cards or are just trying to manage their spending better in the tough economy, the answer is increasingly the old-fashioned one.

Retailers like Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Target Corp. and J.C. Penney Co. are noticing a marked shift away from credit cards in favor of cash and debit cards. A big factor is less credit available as major card issuers cut spending limits and raise fees even for customers who pay their bills on time.

The shift ends Americans' long love affair with credit cards and is one of the changes in consumer behavior that has emerged since the financial meltdown that could depress consumer spending this holiday season and affect shoppers' habits long afterward.

Particularly during holiday seasons past, shoppers could count on a pile of plastic to give them the extra financing needed to splurge on presents before they had to face the bills in January or later.

But even when the economy recovers and credit loosens up, analysts say Americans—shaped by what could be a deep and long-lasting recession—are likely to stick with buying only what they can afford just as their parents or grandparents did after the Great Depression.

"I think this is a new way of life," said Robert Smith, of Loves Park, Ill., who along with his wife has been using cash and debit cards to finance their spending, including vacations, since they paid off their credit card debts in July. "I like to be able to know that we paid for something. I hate monthly payments when you use a credit card."

Smith, who has four children ages 7 to 13 and owns a motivational training company called Drive and Grow Rich, says his business is down 20 percent this year, and since he is saddled with a mortgage, he doesn't want to get back into debt.

While the credit crunch is teaching consumers to be more "financially prudent," it's creating a lot of pain for both consumers and stores, said Curtis Arnold, founder of CreditRatings.com.

One sign of how strapped consumers are for credit—and buying only what they have the cash for—is that for the first time in 17 years, Penney's has seen swings in spending around payday cycles over the past three months.

That's common for discounters like Wal-Mart, but a rarity for a mall-based department store—suggesting that Penney's middle-income customers are feeling the pinch as well. Penney's President and Chief Merchandising Officer Ken Hicks noted that the chain hasn't seen swings in spending around payday since about 1991, when the U.S. was entering a recession

At Wal-Mart, the volatility in spending around payday—a drop in spending in the days before, followed by spending bursts right afterward—has become even more pronounced since September. Chief Financial Officer Tom Schoewe told The Associated Press that shoppers are now unable to buy even necessities in the few days before payday.

Such swings became more dramatic last fall, but subsided when shoppers received their government rebate checks this past spring.

Eduardo Castro-Wright, president and chief executive of Wal-Mart's U.S. division, told investors last month that credit card payments as a percentage of total payments fell 7.4 percent so far in the current fiscal year, which ends in January. That's a big reversal from the robust double-digit growth rates in credit cards over the past three years, he said.

Target executives told investors late last month that it's seeing lower credit card usage among its shoppers for the first time since 2001-2003.

At Penney's, Hicks said that use of the company's store credit card was flat during the third quarter. The use of credit cards issued by other parties declined by a couple of percentage points as a percentage of overall payment, he noted, while cash was up by the same amount. Hicks said he hasn't seen a decline in credit card use in five or six years.

AP

Kira Limer pays cash for a book at Barnes & Noble, Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2008 in New York.

Obama aide promotes job plan, warns automakers

WASHINGTON (AP)—After more than two weeks of virtual silence on the economy, President-elect Barack Obama's transition team burst on the scene with new ambition and urgency Sunday, demanding swift passage by Congress of a massive two-year spending and tax-cutting recovery program.

Obama aides called on lawmakers to pass, by the Jan. 20 inauguration, legislation that meets Obama's two-year goal of saving or creating 2.5 million jobs. Democratic congressional leaders said they would get to work when Congress convenes Jan. 6.

Though Obama aides declined to discuss a total cost, it probably would far exceed the $175 billion he proposed during the campaign, but would not immediately seek to raise taxes on the rich. Some economists and lawmakers have argued for a two-year plan as large as $700 billion, equal to the Wall Street bailout Congress approved last month.

With the wounded economy worsening, the Obama team's new assertiveness was a recognition he needed to soothe financial markets with signs of leadership. It also foreshadowed a more hands-on role by Obama to influence congressional action during the final weeks of the transition.

Obama planned to introduce his economic team on Monday, including Timothy Geithner as treasury secretary and Lawrence Summers as head of the National Economic Council. Obama also has settled on New Mexico Gov. bill Richardson as his commerce secretary.

"We don't have time to waste here, " Obama senior adviser David Axelrod said. "We want to hit the ground running on January 20th." Echoing that, the second-ranking House Democrat, Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, said, `We expect to have during the first couple of weeks of January a package for the president's consideration when he takes office."

Bernanke says he erred in gauging mortgage fallout

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke acknowledges he was wrong in believing that there would be limited fallout to financial markets from risky mortgages that soured after the housing market's collapse.

"I and others were mistaken early on in saying that the subprime crisis would be contained," Bernanke said in an article in the Dec. 1 issue of The New Yorker magazine.

"The causal relationship between the housing problem and the broad financial system was very complex and difficult to predict," he said in the piece titled "Anatomy of a Meltdown."

Bernanke

Subprime mortgages made to people with tarnished credit or low incomes were especially hard hit once the housing boom went bust. Foreclosures spiked and financial companies wracked up huge losses as these investments turned bad.

The mortgage meltdown started in the United States in the summer of 2007 and rapidly spread to other countries, as well as to other types of lending, affecting even more creditworthy customers. The problems with risky, subprime mortgages touched off what many call the worst financial crisis to hit the world since the 1930s.

To protect the economy from damage and help ease Wall Street turmoil, Bernanke and his colleagues cut a key interest rate in September 2007—the first reduction in four years. Some critics at the time thought the Fed should have acted sooner.

Now more than a year into the crisis, Bernanke has taken a flurry of unprecedented—and some controversial—steps to help bolster the banking system and to get banks to lend money more freely again.

Wall Street braces for another pivotal week

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street faces another pivotal week, with investors enmeshed in a stock market knocked to 11-year lows amid growing fears about the fate of the nation's ailing automobile industry and banking system.

The market, considered a forward-looking gauge of the economy, appears to lack any catalysts for buying. The triggers of last week's massive stock losses continue to hang over the market, with no bailout seen for Detroit's three automakers and Citigroup Inc. shares plunging to all-time lows.

And, that's just the start of it—even more uncertainty is expected to come in a week shortened by the Thanksgiving holiday. A stream of economic reports, the start of the holiday shopping season, and more clues about the job market will keep investors scrambling in the coming days.

One thing investors can expect is more volatility in a fractious market, where thin volume exacerbates the market's wild swings. Last week, the stock market slumped to lows not seen since 1997 on Thursday before recovering with a big rally the next day.

The question analysts pondered over the weekend is whether investors can find a way to build on Friday's rally. The answer could come Monday afternoon when President-elect Barack Obama is scheduled to introduce his economic team.

"It seems to me that President-elect Obama has a chance to do something important that could improve people's psychology," said Peter Cohan, principal of Peter S. Cohan & Associates. "If Obama can reverse the psychology—make people believe that he understands the problem and will do what's needed to solve it—then they will start to engage again with the economic system."

Obama is expected to name Timothy Geithner, president of the New York Federal Reserve bank, as Treasury Secretary; Lawrence Summers, a former treasury secretary under President Bill Clinton, is expected to be named as director of the National Economic Council.

Sources: government working Citigroup rescue plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government was weighing a plan on Sunday to rescue Citigroup Inc., whose stock has been hammered on worries about its financial health.

The Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve have been in discussions over the weekend to devise a strategy to stabilize the company, according to people familiar with the talks. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the discussions were ongoing.

A spokesman for New York-based Citigroup declined comment.

The company has seen its shares lose 60 percent of their value in the past week, reflecting a crisis of confidence among skittish investors who are worried all the risky debt on Citigroup's balance sheet will turn into losses as the economy worsens and the markets stay turbulent—losses that could be nearly impossible to reverse.

Citigroup is such a large, interconnected player in the financial system that if it were to collapse it would wreak havoc on already fragile financial and economic conditions.

Analysts consider Citigroup the most vulnerable among the major U.S. banks—especially after it failed to nab Wachovia Corp., which was bought instead by Wells Fargo & Co. That was a missed opportunity for Citi to gets its hands on much-needed U.S. deposits that would bolster its cash position.

Nation

Official: Richardson to be commerce secretary

NEW YORK (AP)—President-elect Barack Obama has chosen New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson to be commerce secretary, adding a prominent Hispanic and one-time Democratic rival to his expanding Cabinet.

Obama planned to announce the nomination after Thanksgiving, according to a Democratic official familiar with the discussions. The official was not authorized to speak publicly about the negotiations and did so on condition of anonymity.

Richardson, 61, had a distinguished and visible career in Washington before returning to New Mexico, where he was elected governor in 2002. Richardson served as U.N. ambassador under President Bill Clinton and later as energy secretary. He was in the House from 1983 to 1997.

Clinton sent Richardson on several high-level diplomatic missions while he was in Congress, including direct talks with Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

In Richardson, Obama will get a secretary of commerce who has been described as relentless and competitive, with a jocular sense of humor.

Richardson is a seasoned international negotiator who mediated with North Korea over the downing of two U.S. Army helicopter pilots; hammered out a deal with Saddam Hussein for the release of two U.S. oil workers; won the release of three Red Cross workers held captive by Sudanese rebels; and was later sought out by the North Koreans to discuss nuclear issues.

His success, said David Goldwyn, national security deputy at the United Nations in the late 1990s, stems from the many different facets of his personality—whether it's the athlete (he bonded with Fidel Castro over baseball), the tireless adversary (he spent four hours at the table trying to persuade President Laurent Kabila to let a U.N. team investigate massacres in Congo) or the regular guy.

AP

In this Aug. 28, 2008 file photo, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson waves after addressing the Democratic National Convention in Denver.

Police seek gunman in fatal Wash. mall shooting

TUKWILA, Wash. (AP)—Police sought a young gunman Sunday after a shooting the day before at a busy Seattle-area shopping mall that killed one teenager and seriously wounded another.

At least four people were detained and questioned after the shooting Saturday afternoon at Southcenter Mall, police Officer Mike Murphy said.

Murphy said the shooting stemmed from a fight between two groups of people and may have been gang related. He said police expected to identify the gunman and make an arrest soon.

The gunman and the two victims were all in their late teens or early 20s, authorities said.

The Southcenter Mall in Tukwila was jammed with thousands of pre-Thanksgiving Day shoppers when the gunman fired shots after apparently getting into a quarrel with the two victims, police said.

The mall, which covers 1.7 million square feet and includes more than 240 stores, reopened as usual Sunday morning with security officers visible.

"Clearly, such a senseless act in our community heightens everyone's state of awareness and concern. Our security precautions reflect that heightened state," mall management said in an unsigned statement Sunday.

The statement said mall owners would not comment because of the investigation but praised "the rapid response of the Tukwila police."

Investigators were trying to determine what led to the shooting and the relationship between the shooter and the victims.

Prisons beefing up teleconferencing to save money

SOMERS, Conn. (AP)—It costs the state of Connecticut at least $1,600 every time multiple murder suspect Joshua Komisarjevsky appears in a courtroom.

Despite his slight build and boyish appearance, Komisarjevsky is classified as a high security inmate, facing charges of murder, rape and arson from a 2007 home invasion in which a woman and her two daughters were killed in Cheshire.

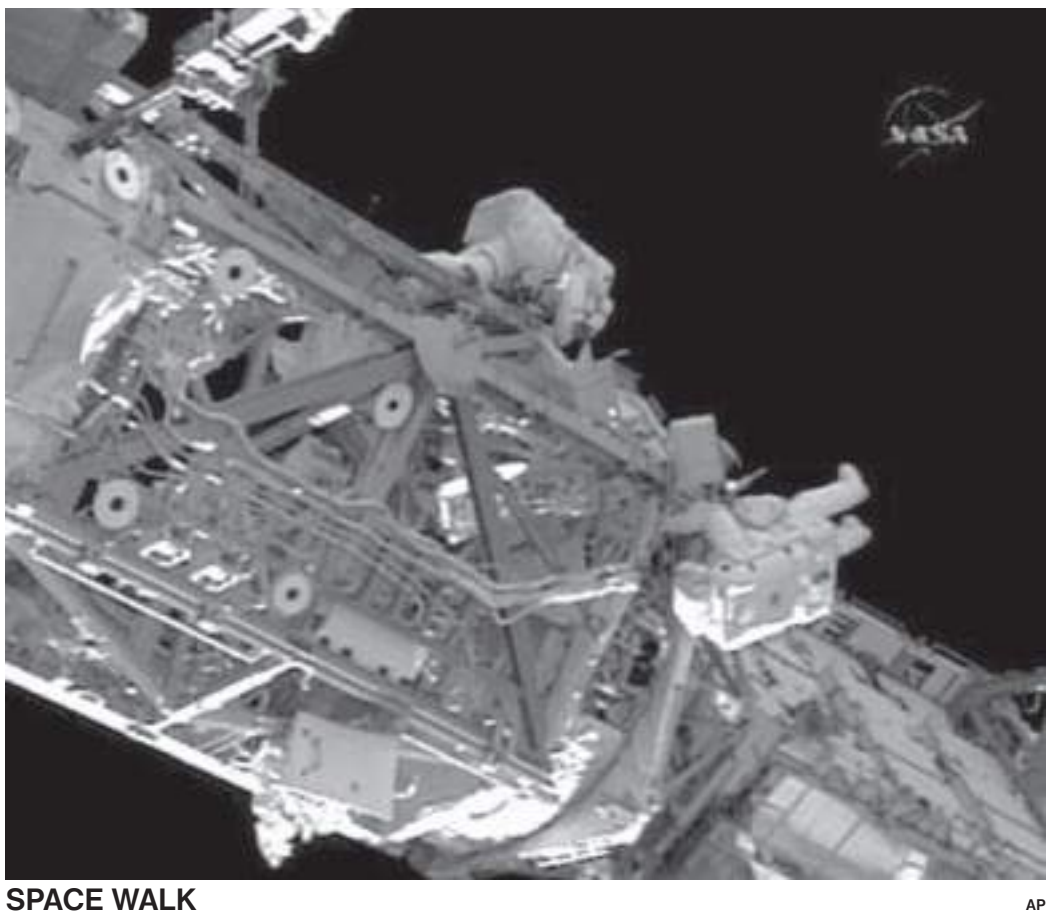
At every court appearance, a special detail of corrections officers and two state troopers are assigned to accompany him.

So, when Komisarjevsky was due in family court earlier this year on an unrelated matter, prison officials opted for a teleconference. Instead of an expensive trip to the courthouse, officers escorted Komisarjevsky down the hall from his cell at the MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution in Suffield, to a room where he participated in the hearing via two-way video.

With high fuel prices and tight state budgets, Connecticut and at least 10 other states—Kansas, Louisiana, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota and Tennessee—report using teleconferences between judges and inmates more often to improve public safety and save some cash.

Although some inmates say they'd prefer to plead their cases in person, correction officials believe the technology offers a fair alternative to spending millions of dollars moving inmates in person.

"It's vehicles, it's gasoline, it's maintenance of those vehicles, it's the driver plus another officer for security purposes," said Connecticut Corrections Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz. "It's all the work that is involved in taking an inmate out of a facility, putting them in a secure vehicle, transporting them to another location."



AP

SPACE WALK

In this image from NASA TV, space walking astronauts Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper, top, and Steven Bowen work on a solar wing-rotating joint during a space walk on the International Space Station, Saturday, Nov. 22, 2008.

Thousands pick up free vegetables on Colo. farm

PLATTEVILLE, Colo. (AP)—A farm couple got a huge surprise when they opened their fields to anyone who wanted to pick up free vegetables left over after the harvest—40,000 people showed up.

Joe and Chris Miller's fields were picked so clean Saturday that a second day of gleaning—the ancient practice of picking up leftover food in farm fields—was canceled Sunday.

"Overwhelmed is putting it mildly," Chris Miller said. "People obviously need food."

She said she expected 5,000 to 10,000 people would show up Saturday to collect free potatoes, carrots and leeks. Instead, an estimated 11,000 vehicles snaked around cornfields and backed up more than two miles. About 30 acres of the 600-acre farm 37 miles north of Denver became a parking lot.

Some people parked their cars along two nearby highways to take to the field with sacks, wagons and barrels.

"Everybody is so depressed about the economy," said Sandra Justice of Greeley, who works at a technology company. "This was a pure party. Everybody having a a great time getting something for free."

Justice and her mother and son picked 10 bags of vegetables.

Miller said they opened the farm to the free public harvest for the first time this year after hearing reports of food being stolen from churches. It was meant as a thank you for customers.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Wife shot and killed at New Jersey church

CLIFTON, N.J. (AP)—A gunman drove across the country to confront his estranged wife, then killed her in a church vestibule as Sunday services let out, authorities said. Two other people were injured in the attack, which sent churchgoers scrambling for safety. The gunman fled, and authorities were searching for him and warned people that he was believed to be armed. About 200 people were attending services inside St. Thomas Syrian Orthodox Knanaya Church in Clifton when the gunman opened fire before noon. Churchgoers described bedlam after the shots rang out. "Kids were crying. People were screaming," Suja Alummoottil told The Record of Bergen County. "It was chaotic." Police Detective Capt. Robert Rowan identified the slain woman as 24-year-old Reshma James and the gunman as 27-year-old Joseph M. Pallipurath of Sacramento, Calif.

Man shot, killed at Scientology building in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A security guard shot and killed a man wielding a sword Sunday on the grounds of a Scientology building in Hollywood, police said. The unidentified man approached the guard around noon in the parking lot of the Scientology Celebrity Centre, said Officer April Harding, a police spokeswoman. The guard "felt threatened for his life" and fired at the man, Harding said. He was pronounced dead at a hospital. Detectives were questioning the guard to figure out the swordsman's motive and determine whether the shooting was justified, Harding said. Calls to Scientology spokespeople were not immediately returned Sunday. The Celebrity Centre includes a seven-story Norman-revival landmark that towers over the Hollywood freeway and used to be a residential hotel for movie stars.

Child sex abuse claims divide Orthodox community

NEW YORK (AP)—It started as a radio program discussion about a taboo subject: child molestation among members of the insular world of Orthodox Jews. Since he broached the subject on his radio show this summer, says a state assemblyman, dozens of people have come forward with stories about children being molested in the Orthodox community, which strictly follows Jewish law. Dov Hikind says as many as four people a day have come to him over the past three months with painful accounts of secrets often kept for decades, accusing more than 60 individuals. Hikind says he would eventually consider unmasking accused sexual predators but wants to focus now on setting up a broader framework for addressing the issue. His campaign has set off a firestorm in the Orthodox community, where people are reluctant to involve secular authorities. One rabbi said he got death threats for speaking out. "In our community, people don't talk about the things that they've come to my office" and revealed, said Hikind, himself an Orthodox Jew.

Asia

Thai lawmakers postpone session amid protests

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Thousands of anti-government protesters surrounded Thailand's Parliament on Monday, preventing lawmakers from entering the building and forcing the cancellation of the session.

Protesters calling themselves the People's Alliance for Democracy vowed to fan out across the city to other government offices as part of a rally billed as their final bid in a monthslong movement to oust the administration.

Riot police barricaded Parliament as the protesters blocked the gates to the building and cut electrical wires outside to create a blackout. Many demonstrators carried masks and swimming goggles to protect against tear gas, which police have said they would use as a last resort to maintain order.

"This is the final showdown," a protest leader Somsak Kosaisuk told cheering protesters from a makeshift stage outside Parliament. "We have been here for a long time. We have been patient. But they have robbed the country to the point where we can't take it anymore.

"I promise you this will soon end," he said.

The demonstrators initially called the protest to block Parliament from debating a bill to rewrite the constitution. The contentious issue was dropped at the last minute and lawmakers were instead to debate legislation relating to an upcoming regional summit.

Samart Kaewmeechai, the deputy house speaker, said the meeting was canceled because members of Parliament could not access the building. The parliamentary session was not immediately rescheduled.

AP

An anti-government demonstrator prepares to march on Thailand's Parliament Monday, Nov. 24, 2008, in Bangkok.

Protest leaders called for simultaneous rallies outside the Finance Ministry, the Bangkok police headquarters and other government offices.

Protesters have occupied the grounds of the prime minister's office for three months in their effort to topple the government, which they allege is the puppet of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

They accuse Thaksin, who was ousted by a 2006 military coup, of corruption and abuse of power, and claim that the proposed constitutional amendment would help him stage a comeback.

Thaksin is in exile, a fugitive from a two-year jail term imposed after he was convicted last month of violating a conflict of interest law.

Both sides braced for a confrontation, with protesters flanked by their own guards armed with poles, clubs and metal rods.

"I'm very scared. But it is time that we win this," said a protester, Wimon Sricarak. "We have been attacked, our friends have died, and all because they want to protect Thaksin."

Two small explosions went off before dawn Monday near the offices of a key protest leader, said police Sgt. Theerapong Rakjit. Nobody was injured and no one claimed responsibility for the blasts.

Opponent says Arroyo golfed with bidder for govt contract

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A former key ally of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo accused her Sunday of committing "a major impropriety" for allegedly socializing with officials from a Chinese company that was seeking a contract with her government.

The House of Representatives is currently considering an impeachment complaint against Arroyo that maintains she approved the granting of a $300 million national broadband contract to China's ZTE Corp. in 2007 despite knowledge that the deal was tainted with bribery allegations.

Arroyo

Arroyo has consistently denied any wrongdoing in the deal, and the House, which is dominated by her allies, is widely expected to soon dismiss the complaint. ZTE has denied offering bribe or huge commissions to any Philippine official.

But in a new twist, former House of Representatives Speaker Jose de Venecia said Sunday he was willing to testify in Congress to support the impeachment complaint. De Venecia has previously led the House of Representatives in blocking two opposition impeachment bids against Arroyo in recent years until their longtime alliance frayed.

De Venecia, still a member of the House, said Sunday that Arroyo invited him to join her on a trip to China in November 2006, and that he didn't know they would play golf and have lunch with ZTE officials at the Chinese telecommunications company's headquarters in Shenzhen, China.

"You know it's a main contender for the contract and here you are being invited to a golf game and having lunch with that company," De Venecia told The Associated Press by telephone.

Asked if he thought Arroyo violated any law or committed an impropriety, De Venecia said he was not sure if her action constituted a violation of any law but added she at least committed "a major impropriety."

It was the first time de Venecia has talked about his knowledge of alleged irregularity in the contract, which Arroyo canceled last year after bribery allegations were launched.

De Venecia fell out of favor with Arroyo after his son, a losing bidder, testified last year in Senate hearings into the bribery allegations.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghans say Obama promises more US military help

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Barack Obama told Afghanistan's leader that he will dedicate more U.S. aid and military power to this region's fight against extremists groups once he takes office, the Afghan presidential office said Sunday The telephone conversation between Obama and President Hamid Karzai on Saturday was the first reported contact between the two, although Obama spoke to at least 15 other world leaders in the three days after winning election. A senior Afghan official dismissed the idea that anything should be read into the delay, calling Obama a "busy man." "I think it was purely a logistical issue, nothing of political significance," said the adviser, who agreed to discuss the phone call only if not quoted by name because he wasn't authorized to talk about it.

Report: NKorea serious about Dec. 1 shutdown

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Monday it will suspend a joint tourism project and halt cross-border train service with South Korea starting next week because of Seoul's hard-line stance on the communist nation. The North's army also said it will "selectively expel" South Koreans from a joint industrial zone in the city of Kaesong, but stopped short of shutting down South Korean-run factories that are a key source of hard currency for the impoverished nation. Monday's announcement laid out the first concrete measures the North plans to take in implementing its threat to restrict traffic to the South starting Dec. 1 and marked a new escalation of tension between the two countries still technically at war. "The South Korean puppets are still hell-bent on the treacherous and anti-reunification confrontational racket," the North said in a message to the South, according to North Korea's state-run Korean Central News Agency.

Jetliner plot suspect believed killed in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—A British citizen linked to a plot to blow up jetliners flying across the Atlantic was believed killed Saturday by an apparent U.S. missile attack on an al-Qaida redoubt near the Afghan border, Pakistani officials said. If confirmed, the death of Rashid Rauf would bolster U.S. claims that missile strikes on extremist strongholds in northwestern Pakistan are protecting the West against another Sept. 11-style terrorist attack. Pakistan's government confirmed that Rauf and a Saudi militant called Abu Zubair al-Masri were the apparent targets of the missile in North Waziristan in the restive tribal region that lies next to Afghanistan. But Information Minister Sherry Rehman also reiterated the government's complaint that missile attacks, apparently launched from unmanned aircraft, are fanning anti-Americanism and Islamic extremism tearing at both Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Dalai Lama urges Tibetan exiles to be prudent

DHARMSALA, India (AP)—The Dalai Lama warned Sunday that the decadeslong dream of a free Tibet would be in danger if exiled leaders weren't careful, one day after they said they might push for independence if China refuses to grant autonomy soon to the Himalayan region.

The Buddhist spiritual leader also called for dialogue with the Chinese people, saying he has little faith anymore in the Beijing government.

Frustrated with stalled talks with China, the Dalai Lama called the weeklong gathering of Tibetan exiles from around the world discuss the future of their movement. The meeting ended Saturday with delegates saying they had decided against seeking independence for now, and that they would maintain the Dalai Lama's "middle way"—his push for autonomy through measured compromise that falls short of calling for independence.

But they also said they would seek independence if China fails to respond positively.

"The next 20 years, if we are not careful, if we are not prudent in our plans there is a great danger," the Dalai Lama said in an address to the leaders in Dharmsala, the north Indian mountain town where has lived since fleeing Tibet following a failed rebellion in 1959. "It could lead to the danger of failure."

While the Buddhist spiritual leader did not specify what he meant, he appeared to be speaking about the larger Tibetan cause, which many exile leaders believe is at a major crossroads.

In March, violent protests rule erupted in Tibet—the biggest challenge to Chinese rule in nearly two decades.

Pakistan raid a sign of sharper US intelligence

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—A U.S. missile strike that killed a British militant linked to a jetliner bomb plot points to sharper American intelligence in Pakistan's borderlands, but is unlikely to lessen anger over the raid and others like it, analysts say.

Protesters Sunday urged Islamabad to sever ties with the United States over the strike—highlighting the risks for Washington as it seeks to eliminate extremists along the Afghan border yet also support Pakistan's democratically elected government.

Pakistani intelligence officials say British citizen Rashid Rauf and a Saudi militant named Abu Zubair al-Masri were among five people killed in Saturday's raid in North Waziristan.

There was no independent confirmation of Rauf's death from either the U.S. or Britain, which had been seeking Rauf's extradition before he escaped from Pakistani custody in December 2007.

Pakistani officials discussing the case insisted on anonymity because of the sensitivities of U.S. operations on the country's soil.

Washington has unleashed at least 20 suspected missile attacks on militant targets close to the Afghan border since mid-August, a dramatic increase that reflects its frustration with Pakistan's own efforts.

Islamabad insists it has no knowledge of the raids, which it says undermine the country's sovereignty, undercut its anti-terror campaign and make it harder to justify its alliance with Washington.

But many analysts speculate it has cut a secret deal with the U.S., though Islamabad continues to publicly criticize the strikes.

World

Bush spurs economic action, but Obama sets agenda

LIMA, Peru (AP)—President George W. Bush got a second bloc of world leaders to endorse comprehensive action to remedy the global financial crisis. But his successor, Barack Obama, is already setting the coming economic agenda.

The formal transfer of power doesn't take place until Jan. 20, but don't tell that to financial markets. They are already taking their cues from Obama and his team.

Wall Street surged by nearly 500 points on Friday after reports that Obama would pick Timothy Geithner, the well-respected head of the New York Federal Reserve, to be his Treasury secretary.

Obama was to formally present his economic team on Monday and elaborate on his weekend call for a sweeping economic stimulus to save and create 2.5 million jobs over the next two years.

It is not that Bush did not have his own successes in Lima at his eighth and final summit of the 21-nation Asia-Pacific Economic forum.

The leaders of Pacific Rim countries endorsed the action plan drafted a week ago in Washington by the Group of 20, representing the world's richest nations and major developing countries such as China, Brazil and India. The G-20 and the APEC leaders are now both on record pledging to cooperate on economic stimulus measures, overhaul financial regulation and avoid the temptation to erect new trade barriers during the current downturn.

The APEC leaders boldly declared an end date for the current troubles, saying, "We are convinced that we can overcome this crisis in a period of 18 months."

Bush economic adviser Daniel Price told reporters after the APEC summit that the president is even more optimistic and believes "the actions we are taking now will begin to produce result in the much nearer term."

Both summits were seen as confidence-building exercises at a time when the global economy is facing perhaps its worst financial crisis since the 1930s.

The hope is that APEC will have more impact than the G-20, which was greeted with a collective yawn by markets that promptly reeled off another string of stomach-churning declines last week. The slide stopped only after word emerged Friday afternoon that Obama had selected his economic team.

The market's positive reaction to Obama's choice for Treasury secretary was followed by wide news coverage of Obama's economic plan—delivered in a Saturday radio address—which overshadowed Bush's own economic speech the same day to the APEC meeting.

"On economics, the torch has clearly been passed," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com. "Everyone is now looking to the Obama team for guidance on how the United States will respond to this global crisis."

AP

Asian leaders—from left, China's President Hu Jintao, Hong Kong's Chief Executive Donald Tsang, Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, and Japan's Prime Minister Taro Aso—attend a meeting with U.S. President George Bush, front right, on the sidelines of the16th summit of the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Lima, Sunday, Nov. 23, 2008.

APEC: *Global crisis can be overcome in 18 months*

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Pacific Rim nations assured the world Sunday that the global financial crisis can be quelled in 18 months, but provided few details of how they expect that to happen—or how their governments can help.

The 21 economies, which represent more than half of the world's productive power, also pledged during a two-day summit not to erect new protectionist barriers for the next year, and to jump-start stalled World Trade Organization talks.

The main accomplishment of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum was a widening of support for the Washington Declaration made last weekend by major economies that pledged to maintain free trade despite pressures to protect domestic industries.

The leaders voiced confidence that the crisis could be resolved by mid-2010, though they did not go much beyond the steps outlined in the Group of 20 summit in Washington "We are convinced that we can overcome this crisis in a period of 18 months," the leaders said in a statement. "We have already taken urgent and extraordinary steps to stabilize our financial sectors and strengthen economic growth."

The reassuring words were added early Sunday to a declaration the leaders had signed off on the previous day. Delegates from several countries said the changes were made overnight at the request of the summit's host, Peruvian President Alan Garcia.

Iraq security pact poses detainee dilemma for US

CAMP CROPPER, Iraq (AP)—The U.S. military is rushing to build criminal cases against some 5,000 detainees it deems dangerous—including suspected members of al-Qaida in Iraq—because the proposed security pact with Iraq would end its right to hold prisoners without charge.

The agreement, which is to be voted on by Iraqi lawmakers Wednesday, is primarily intended to set a timetable calling for American troops to leave Iraq by the end of 2011. But it also calls for control of security matters to shift to Iraqi authorities.

If passed, the deal would mean U.S. troops could no longer hold people without charge as they have since the 2003 invasion that ousted Saddam Hussein. Beginning Jan. 1, all detentions would have to be based on evidence, and the U.S. would have to prosecute prisoners in Iraqi courts or let them go.

"At the end of the day, if there's not enough facts to justify a court case, then we'll have to release," said Brig. Gen. David Quantock, the commander of the U.S. detention system in Iraq.

The Americans have evidence against only "a few hundred" of the most dangerous detainees, Quantock said, leaving open the possibility that thousands could find themselves back on Iraq's streets soon.

"We have a lot of work to do," he said.

Part of the challenge stems from differences between the U.S. and Iraqi legal systems. In the United States, forensic evidence is widely used in the courts. Not so in Iraq.

"We've got a number of guys right now that are covered in TNT (explosive residue). However, that's not admissible in Iraqi court," Quantock said. "What wins the day in Iraqi courts today is two eyewitness statements or a confession."

The U.S. is training Iraqi forensic specialists and pushing to make such evidence more acceptable in court. Iraqi judges are slowly bending, but it is expected to take time before forensic evidence wins wide approval.

Colombian shoppers' dream built on pyramid scheme

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—It was just three easy steps to the ultimate shopper's club reward:

1. Buy a prepaid card.

2. Cash it in for groceries, a flat-screen TV or a even new car.

3. Six months later, get all your cash back.

That fantastic deal enriched legions of working-class Colombians before President Alvaro Uribe shut down DMG Group Holdings, S.A. last week, calling it a pyramid scheme that laundered drug money and raked in $435 million this year alone.

Officials say DMG was the largest in a wave of scams that has swept Colombia, where a well-developed smuggling industry has nurtured some of the world's craftiest swindlers. The collapse of one such scheme this month sparked deadly riots by duped investors in more than a dozen southern Colombian towns.

Those riots triggered Uribe's decision to shut down DMG before it could collapse, a move that outraged many of its 200,000 cardholders. They revere the company's founder, a 28-year-old former baker named David Murcia, for giving them a shot at the good life.

"Where does the money come from? Believe me, I don't know," said housewife Lucia Lizca, 38, whose prepaid 5 million peso ($2,100) DMG card is now worthless. "But look, that cake maker showed himself to be smarter than a president. I don't know how he cooked it up, but good or bad, he gave a lot of hope to people who have nothing."

AP

Clients of the investment company DMG run from the tear gas fired by police as they protest in Bogota, Thursday, Nov. 20, 2008.

WORLD BRIEFS

Guinea-Bissau president escapes coup attempt

BISSAU, Guinea-Bissau (AP)—The president of Guinea-Bissau survived an apparent coup attempt in the West African nation Sunday, emerging from his bullet-scarred home hours after his guards repelled mutinous soldiers to declare that they wanted to kill him. President Joao Bernardo Vieira hid in a room in his heavily fortified home while security forces turned back the soldiers in a three-hour gunbattle, Interior Minister Cipriano Cassama said. The attack had begun with heavy artillery fire on Vieira's home shortly after midnight. Vieira and his wife were unhurt, but at least one of his guards died and several others were injured, Cassama said. "These people attacked my residence with a single objective—to physically liquidate me," Vieira told the nation in a televised news conference from his home. "No one has the right to massacre the people of Guinea-Bissau in order to steal power by means of the gun."

Opposition makes gains in Venezuela vote

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's allies have won a majority in Venezuela's state elections. But the opposition has made important gains, winning two of the most populous states and the mayor's post in Caracas. Venezuela's electoral agency says with more than 95 percent of votes counted, opposition candidates won at least three states, while Chavez's allies had won 17 in Sunday's vote. Election chief Tibisay Lucena said the opposition won in the two most populous states—Miranda and Zulia, as well as Nueva Esparta. The Caracas mayor's office also shifts to the opposition. Chavez's brother, Adan, won the governor's race in the president's home state of Barinas. The results of two states were too close to call.

Georgian, Polish presidents' motorcade fired on

TBILISI, Georgia (AP)—Shots were fired near the motorcade carrying the presidents of Georgia and Poland on Sunday—the fifth anniversary of Georgia's Rose Revolution—Georgian officials said. No one was hurt in the shooting. Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili, who led the pro-Western 2003 uprising but whose popularity has waned in recent months, blamed Russian troops in Georgia's breakaway province of South Ossetia. "Frankly, I didn't expect the Russians to open fire," he said at a news conference with Polish President Lech Kaczynski. "The reality is you are dealing with unpredictable people. They weren't happy to see our guest and they weren't happy to see me either." Kaczynski said the shots were fired from only about 30 meters (100 feet) from the motorcade. He said it was not clear if the gunfire was aimed at the motorcade or shots were fired into the air.

Overdrive

2008 MITSUBISHI LANCER EVOLUTION MR

Peak performer will cost you a pretty penny

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

ultimate driving pleasure—speed, handling, power—driving enthusiasts often downplay, or otherwise redefine things

The 2008 Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution MR: Definitely for people who love driving fast.

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Mitsubishi Motors plans to abandon its failed policy of pursuing the mainstream. That means, as publicly announced in *Automotive News* and other industry trade journals, Mitsubishi will stop production of its mid-size Galant sedan at its assembly plant in Normal, Ill., after the 2008 model year.

That is a good thing. The Galant is a bread-and-butter car served in what amounts to an exotic foods market, thanks to numerous Mitsubishi rivals that offer more appealing products. Bread and butter, as a result, tend to get picked over, or forgotten altogether on more interesting tables, which has long been the case for the Galant—a good car that gathers little attention and even fewer sales.

Instead of producing easily ignored mass-market automobiles, Mitsubishi plans to use its Illinois facility to do what the company does best—turn out low-volume specialty products that command fanatically loyal support from consumers worldwide.

Consider, for example, this week's subject automobile, the 2008 Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution MR. It is a super-performance car, currently assembled in Mizushima, Japan. It is sold in the United States for what, to many driving enthusiasts, is an "affordable" price under $40,000.

A word of caution: "Driving enthusiasts" are hereby differentiated from "normal drivers." In their quest for that are of major importance to normal drivers, such as cost, comfort and convenience.

Accordingly, the Lancer Evolution MR and its more gut-wrenching sibling, the Lancer Evolution GSR, are not cars for everybody. They are low-slung, hard-riding automobiles of breathless acceleration and handling that seem more suitable for racetracks than they are for daily commuting. That, in fact, is their heritage. Now in their 10th-model generation, they were developed to compete in the World Rally Championship races, which they often finished victoriously.

Mitsubishi, in that regard, is an odd company. It is a conglomerate—a maker of many things, a provider of multiple services. Perhaps, because of its diversity, Mitsubishi often honors both mediocrity and exceptionality, turning out truly boring products—the Galant is a good example—and beating the pants off all comers when it has a mind to do something special.

Look at the Lancer Evolution MR. Mitsubishi takes fast driving seriously. The 18-inch diameter, low-aspect-ratio Yokohama tires are expressly designed for dry, paved-road speed and handling. They even come with a consumer advisory pasted to the interior panel of the front, driver's-side door, telling the owner to switch to snow tires, or something more appropriate, for winter motoring.

It's the kind of thing that most normal drivers would ignore, or certainly find unnecessarily expensive, or annoying. But the Lancer MR and GSR are made for more demanding types, people who want peak automotive performance in all seasons and who don't mind paying or doing a bit more to get it.

For those people, the Lancer Evolution MR with its turbocharged, 291-horsepower, four-cylinder engine; its double-clutch, six-speed transmission that can be shifted automatically or manually; its Brembo performance brakes; and waist-hugging Recaro seats is an absolute bargain.

I never thought I'd see anybody smile over a Mitsubishi car with a base price approaching $39,000. But, as I said, "driving enthusiasts" live in a different world.

They gathered around the Lancer Evolution at suburban parking lots, asking about its "specs" and performance, angling for a drive, praising its pricing. That was a stunner.

The spectators were mostly young men, many of them gainfully, albeit not richly, employed. But they said they would figure out a way to get the bucks for the Lancer Evolution—probably for the less-expensive, less-tufted GSR. All of that power and all of that speed and handling—at that price! Apparently mistaking me for a salesman, they wanted me to sign them up. They were smitten.

To me—an elder befuddled by youthful infatuation with a $39,000 car that consumes premium unleaded gasoline in an economy that has gone to hell in a handbasket—the would-be Lancer Evolution buyers offered the following bits of logic: "Cheaper than a Ferrari" and "more fun than a Porsche" and "I can get $40,000 faster than I can make $50,000."

Yeah, Mitsubishi should turn its Illinois plant into a specialty shop. I've got a hunch that, with enough sparkle, power and pizazz, offered at the right price, it will sell whatever rolls out of there—even in a down economy.

NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINT

This is more "consumer-aware" than anything. The Lancer Evolution GSR and MR truly are cars for people who love driving fast, don't mind giving up some creature comforts—ingress and egress can be difficult for hefty or older types—and don't mind changing tires when the snow falls.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING

This one offers exceptional performance in all three categories. Apparently, it's also high on the "stop-or-follow" lists of every police department in the country. I was police-monitored so much during my week in the car that I was beginning to feel downright presidential.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT

The 10th generation of the Lancer Evolution is much more visually appealing than its predecessors, which were borderline adolescent in exterior design. I still can do without that high rear spoiler. But the rest of the car now looks like something an adult would buy.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT

The Lancer Evolution GSR and MR are compact, front-engine, all-wheel-drive, high-performance sedans designed for weekend racetrack battle, but capable of being pressed into service for daily commutes.

ENGINE TRANSMISSION

The standard 2-liter, 16-valve, double-overhead cam engine with electronically timed valve lift and control (to help reduce fuel use) develops 291 horsepower at 6,000 revolutions a minute and 300 foot-pounds of torque at 4,000 revolutions per minute. It is linked to a double-clutch, six-speed transmission that can be shifted automatically or manually.

CAPACITIES

There are seats for five people—with cramped seating in the rear. Luggage capacity is 6.9 cubic feet. Fuel capacity is 14.5 gallons of premium unleaded gasoline recommended for best performance.

MILEAGE

My real-world mileage was 15 miles per gallon city and 20 mpg highway, poor enough to make me appreciate falling gasoline prices.

SAFETY

Standard equipment includes ventilated Brembo disc brakes front and rear with antilock control; head and side air bags; electronic stability and traction control ... and one of the best sports-car suspensions there is.

PRICE

Base price on the 2008 Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution MR is $38,290. Dealer's invoice price on that model is $36,089. Price as tested is $43,514, including $4,549 in options (onboard navigation, premium leather seats, premium sound system, rear spoiler and other external add-ons) and a $675 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is $40,495. Prices sourced from Mitsubishi, Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE

"Cheaper than a Ferrari ... more fun than a Porsche."

Consumers cautious about effect of auto bankruptcy

NEW YORK (AP)—Cash-strapped General Motors insists declaring bankruptcy would be disastrous because it would scare away customers. It's unlikely Chevrolet and Cadillac owners would be left with worthless warranties and no replacement parts, but the headlines about the Detroit Three's dire situation may already be keeping buyers away.

"If GM is under the imminent threat of bankruptcy or actually declares bankruptcy, I would not consider a GM product," said Kevin Ketels, who might replace his family's 2004 Toyota RAV4 late next year. "I just don't know if the company will be around to fulfill their warranty obligations. Will they be there for me? There are too many unknowns and a car is my second biggest investment next to my house."

The 38-year-old from Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich., would be among the 80 percent of Americans who General Motors Corp. insists wouldn't even consider a GM brand such as Buick, Saturn or Saab if the company was in bankruptcy. Chief Executive Rick Wagoner brought up the statistic from a CNW Research survey last week during his congressional plea for $25 billion in federal loans.

The concerns are intensifying as the Detroit company burns through tens of millions of dollars a day. It has warned that by year's end, it could reach the minimum amount of cash it needs to stay in business.

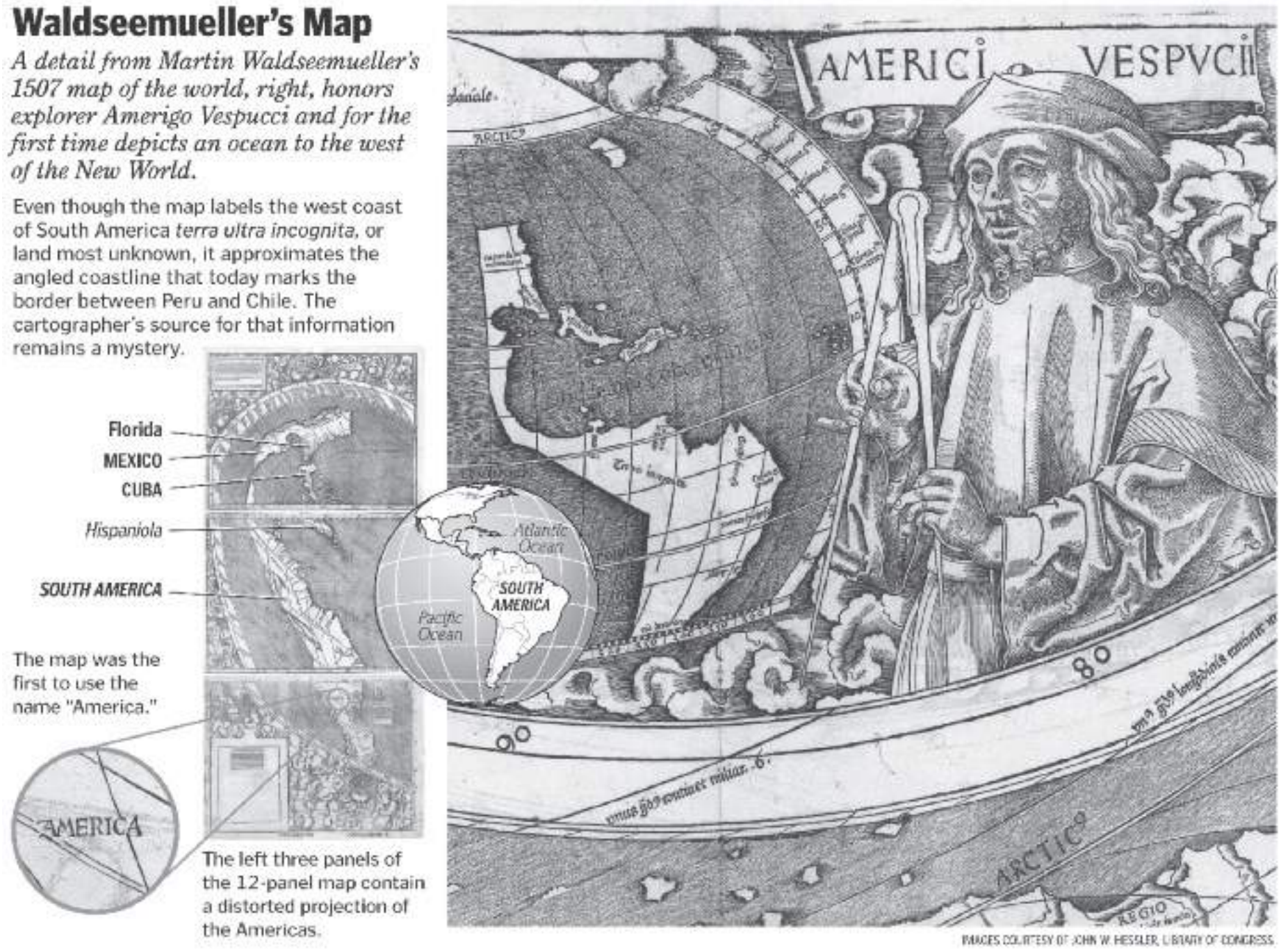
Chrysler CEO Bob Nardelli gave the same warning for his company, but Ford Motor Co., also suffering under the worst sales environment in 25 years, says it should have enough cash and untapped credit lines to get through 2009.

Some lawmakers, who want to see the companies' plans to become competitive and profitable before doling out aid, say bankruptcy should be on the table. A prearranged run through Chapter 11 would give GM more latitude to postpone payments to creditors, renegotiate contracts, raise capital and reorganize to stay alive. But with credit markets frozen, finding the financing to do it without government help may be impossible, and the company may be forced to liquidate.

Life & Style

Mapping knowledge

16th-century map maker's intriguing knowledge


Waldseemueller's Map
A detail from Martin Waldseemueller's 1507 map of the world, right, honors explorer Amerigo Vespucci and for the first time depicts an ocean to the west of the New World.
Even though the map labels the west coast of South America terra ultra incognita, or land most unknown, it approximates the angled coastline that today marks the border between Peru and Chile. The cartographer's source for that information remains a mystery.
Florida
MEXICO
CUBA
Hispaniola
SOUTH AMERICA
Atlantic Ocean
Pacific Ocean
SOUTH AMERICA
The map was the first to use the name "America."
AMERICA
The left three panels of the 12-panel map contain a distorted projection of the Americas.
AMERICI VESPVCII
ARCTICO
ARCTICO
IMAGES COURTESY OF JOHN W. HESSLER, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

THE WASHINGTON POST

Martin Waldseemueller, a map-making cleric, appears to have also known something about the contours of South America's west coast years before the explorers Vasco Nunez de Balboa and Ferdinand Magellan. Evidence for this mystery of the Renaissance is Waldseemueller's world map of 1507, on view at the Library of Congress.

By DAVID BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

How was it that a German priest writing in Latin and living in a French city far from the coast became the first person to tell the world that a vast ocean lay to the west of the American continents?

This is one of the bigger mysteries in the history of the Renaissance.

But it is not the only one involving Martin Waldseemueller, a map-making cleric whose own story is sufficiently obscure that his birth and death dates aren't known for certain.

Waldseemueller appears to have also known something about the contours of South America's west coast years before Vasco Nunez de Balboa crossed the Isthmus of Panama and Ferdinand Magellan sailed around the bottom of the continent. History books record them as the first Europeans to bring back knowledge of the Pacific Ocean.

The evidence of this knowledge is in Waldseemueller's world map of 1507, perhaps the most valuable of the 5 million maps owned by the Library of Congress. It was acquired for $10 million in 2003 and went on permanent display last year.

The map—in near-perfect condition and with no other known copies—is the oldest document that applies the label "America" to the land mass between Africa and Asia.

This was, of course, in honor of Amerigo Vespucci, a Florentine navigator who had sailed to the New World for the Portuguese. (His first name was Latinized to "Americus" and then feminized to "America.") The act of naming was apparently Waldseemueller's alone; there is no evidence that the term was in use at the time.

New research by John Hessler of the Library of Congress has made the mystery of Waldseemueller's knowledge deeper and richer. But it hasn't answered the biggest question: How did he know?

"There is some probability that Waldseemueller knew something that is no longer extant—information that we don't have," Hessler said.

The researcher, 48, brings a diverse set of skills to the task. He took Latin all through parochial school and college (at Villanova University) and reads the language fluently. He is an engineer by training and is equally fluent in the mathematics of cartography.

In a new book, "The Naming of America," Hessler provides the first published translation of the map's text blocks. He has also done a modern translation of Waldseemueller's book, "Cosmographiae Introductio," printed in 1507 in St. Die, France, where the cartographer was canon of the cathedral. Although Waldseemueller gets most of the credit for the map and the book, he had a collaborator, an Alsatian named Matthias Ringmann, who died in 1511.

In the largest block of text on the map, Waldseemueller writes that many things remained unknown to the ancients "in no slight degree; for instance, in the west, America, named after its discoverer, which is now known to be a fourth part of the world." In "Cosmographiae," he uses similar language: "The earth is now known to be divided into four parts. The first three parts are continents, but the fourth part is an island, because it has been found to be surrounded on all sides by sea."

Hessler said he thinks the phrases "now known" and "has been found to be" are crucial. They suggest geographical knowledge that is confirmed and believed, at least in some circles.

"The idea that this was a total guess is far-fetched," he said.

The people who knew were most likely Portuguese explorers (or at least sailed under the Portuguese flag). It was valuable, and most likely secret, knowledge. How it got to a priest-cartographer working under the patronage of the duke of Lorraine is a good question.

Equally intriguing is the shape of South America.

Inscribed along the western edge of that land mass in the 1507 map are the words "terra ultra incognita"—land most unknown. But the border is not drawn as one long, ignorantly straight line. Instead, it is a series of straight lines meeting at shallow angles, implying a mixture of knowledge and uncertainty.

Using a technique called "polynomial warping," Hessler re-projected the image and compared Waldseemueller's continent with the real one.

There are many differences, of course. But the correlation is about 75 percent, and at two important places—near the equator and near the place in northern Chile where the coast veers sharply northwesterly—the width of Waldseemueller's South America and the actual one are almost the same.

Things were perhaps not as ultra incognita as he let on.

That is not the end of the strangeness, however.

In the large text block on the map, Waldseemueller requests "that those who are inexperienced and unacquainted with cosmography shall not condemn all this before they have learned what will surely be clearer to them later on, when they have come to understand it."

It is a plea. He knows his map is asking a lot.

In 1516, Waldseemueller published his second great map, called the Carta Marina. It shows South America no longer as an island. The continent disappears off the left of the page, implying it is attached to Asia, which is on the right edge.

Hessler has provided the first English translations of the second map's text blocks. In one of them, Waldseemueller says: "We will seem to you reader, to have diligently presented and shown a representation of the world previously, which was filled with error, wonder and confusion. ... Our previous representation pleased very few people, as we have lately come to understand."

Was this a retraction? It sounds like it. Was a continental America heresy? Hessler said he has found no reason to think it was. So why would Waldseemueller change his new view of the world to an older one?

That's just one more mystery of the mysterious map.

AP

Rihanna accepts the soul/rhythm & blues music favorite female artist award at the American Music Awards in Los Angeles on Sunday, Nov. 23, 2008.

AMAs mix awards with action-packed performances

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Musical lovebirds Rihanna and Chris Brown captured the first two trophies Sunday at the American Music Awards.

Rihanna won favorite female soul/R&B artist, and Brown won favorite male pop/rock artist. The two were seated together but left one another out of their thank-you speeches.

The show traditionally centers on its performances, though a pair of lackluster medleys opened the program at the Nokia Theatre. Christina Aguilera channeled Madonna and the New Kids on the Block channeled an earlier version of themselves during the evening's first two performances, in which both acts sang their latest singles and greatest hits.

Pink brought a healthy dose of energy to the stage during her performance of "Sober," which was awkwardly introduced by slurring rocker Scott Weiland.

Jimmy Kimmel returned for a fifth time as host of the three-hour show, broadcast live on ABC, poking fun at the celebrity-filled crowd during his opening monologue.

Recapping the year in music, he cracked: "Christina Aguilera had a baby ... Mariah Carey married one."

Carey was among the evening's other slated performers, along with Beyonce, Kanye West and the Jonas Brothers.

Miley Cyrus wasn't just slated to sing, she was to celebrate her "Sweet 16" on the show. Coldplay and Leona Lewis were to make their American Music Award debuts, and Alicia Keys and Sarah McLachlan were to perform with yet-to-be-announced artists in genre-crossing mash-ups.

Annie Lennox was to receive the Award of Merit, an honor previously bestowed on Michael Jackson, Whitney Houston, Frank Sinatra and James Brown, among others.

"I can look back now and see the body of work behind me, with Dave Stewart and the Eurythmics and my own solo work. I'm pleased with it," she said before the show started. "And I want to carry on, so I suppose my longevity is a good thing for other women that are coming out. You don't have to be 15 or 20. You can be in your fifties, man, and rock."

There will be other awards, too, chosen by online voters in 21 categories. Keys leads nominees with five nods, including artist of the year and favorite female artist in both the pop/rock and soul/R&B categories. Coldplay and the Eagles have four nominations each, while Brown and Lil Wayne have three apiece. All are also contenders for artist of the year.

The roster of presenters is just as star-studded as the list of performers. Terrence Howard, Kate Walsh, Paris Hilton, T-Pain, Ashley Tisdale and Nick Lachey are set to help hand out trophies.

The 10 movies you shouldn't watch online

By JAKE COYLE
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

AP

In this 1961 file photo, actor Peter O'Toole is shown in the title role in the film "Lawrence of Arabia."

Movies are increasingly creeping online, as video sites like YouTube and Hulu are adding feature films to their extensive libraries.

At the Google-owned YouTube, there is the YouTube Screening Room, which every two weeks, adds four new films—mostly independent works—to the site. Hulu, the joint creation of NBC Universal and News Corp., has hundreds of films available for stream, from "Basic Instinct" to "Wuthering Heights."

Of course, many people download films illegally on BitTorrent sites, but movies are nevertheless becoming more populated—legally—online.

Hulu recently added 1962's "Lawrence of Arabia," which begs the question: Should anyone watch a nearly four-hour-long epic of sweeping grandeur on their laptop? Or, heaven forbid, their cell phone?

Here are the top ten films that should never be brought down to size:

1

"Lawrence of Arabia": David Lean's film, which won seven Oscars including best picture, was made for the big screen - particularly as projected in all of its 70 millimeter glory. Though Hulu (like YouTube) streams films in high quality, the enormity of the Arabian desert loses something when dwarfed to a 4-inch by 6-inch screen.

2

"Last of the Mohicans": Michael Mann's 1992 adaptation of James Fenimore Cooper's novel pulses with the raw nature of early America so much that film critic David Thomson has written that he expects William Wordsworth to pop up at any moment. You won't get that rugged feeling on a computer.

3

"Jaws": Really, how scary can that shark be if he's two inches tall?

4

"North By Northwest": Alfred Hitchcock's 1959 classic is just too big for your computer. It's almost too big for a movie screen. The film, after all, includes a chase seen with an airplane, Bernard Herrmann's robust score, Mount Rushmore and, well, Cary Grant in sunglasses.

5

"Star Wars": It's true, a hologram of Princess Leia on your computer is just about as fitting as one of Will.i.am on CNN. But do you really want to see (spoiler alert!) the Death Star explode next to your e-mail?

6

"WarGames": There isn't anything so cinematic about this 1983 thriller starring Matthew Broderick. But watching a movie about Cold War-era paranoia in which a computer threatens to bomb the world might cause you to panic out of distrust for all things computerized and throw your laptop out the window.

7

"Barry Lyndon": The same computer rebellion of "WarGames" might also apply to Stanley Kubrick's "2001: A Space Odyssey," but the Kubrick film that deserves the absolute best presentation is his 1975 period piece. The cinematography by John Alcott—including a candlelit scene shot with NASA-developed camera lenses—is best seen projected in the dark.

8

"Raiders of the Lost Ark": You have to worry that a story about an adventure-seeking archaeologist with a whip fetish who gets chased by boulders might seem a tad unrealistic when shrunk down from the big screen. (But feel free to be disappointed by the latest "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" on whatever platform you like.)

9

"The Third Man": Carol Reed's 1949 film is one of the most exquisitely shot films ever and meant for the movie theater. Also, a Web junky might take the wrong lesson from "The Third Man." The Internet has a way of depersonalizing people, much in the way Orson Welles famously looks down at far below humans from atop a Ferris wheel in "The Third Man," caring nothing if the "little dots" stopped moving.

10

"You've Got Mail": It's just a little too cutesy to watch this romantic comedy on your computer, don't you think?

Jackson spokeswoman: singer, sheik settle lawsuit

LONDON (AP)—Lawyers for Michael Jackson have reached a settlement with a Bahraini sheik who says the singer owes him $7 million after breaching a signed contract, the pop star's spokeswoman said Sunday.

The out-of-court settlement means Jackson will not be giving evidence at London's High Court as scheduled on Monday, Celena Aponte said.

Scores of journalists and fans had been expected to cram the courtroom for the appearance by the always-unpredictable King of Pop. Aponte said Jackson was informed of the deal as he was about to board a flight to London.

"As Mr. Jackson was about to board his plane to London, he was advised by his legal team to postpone his travels since the parties had concluded a settlement in principle," Aponte said. "Therefore, he will not be attending court on Monday."

A representative for the sheik could not immediately be reached late Sunday.

Sheik Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa said he gave the singer millions and planned a series of collaborations following Jackson's acquittal on child molestation charges in June 2005. Al Khalifa, 33, invited Jackson to the small, oil-rich Gulf state to escape the media spotlight.

The sheik, the second son of the king of Bahrain, said he believed he had formed "a close personal relationship" with the star, whom he referred to affectionately as "my brother."

Al Khalifa said he gave Jackson millions of dollars to help shore up his finances and subsidize Jackson's lifestyle in Bahrain—including more than $300,000 for a "motivational guru." Al Khalifa, an amateur songwriter, says the pair even moved into the same palace to work on music together.

But Jackson dropped the project in 2006, leaving Bahrain and pulling out of the contract.

Jackson's lawyers have maintained the money was a gift and argued that the musician wasn't bound by the deal because the contract was signed on behalf of 2 Seas Records, a venture which never got off the ground.

The singer originally wanted to avoid coming to London to answer the lawsuit in person, seeking instead to give evidence by video link from the United States. His lawyer, Robert Englehart, had claimed that Jackson should be spared the trans-Atlantic trip due to an unspecified illness, but on Thursday the lawyer said the 50-year-old star had been cleared for travel.

The suit is being heard in London by mutual agreement.

Jackson's purported medical problems—and his sometimes bizarre demeanor—have been a regular feature of previous court appearances. His 2005 trial was punctuated by complaints of back problems, an apparent bout with the flu and visits to the hospital. At one point, the judge had to order the pajama-clad star into court from the emergency room.

His most notorious appearance came in 2002, when a wide-eyed Jackson testified in a California courtroom with what appeared to be a bandage hanging from his nose.

'Twilight' takes $70.6M bite out of box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Audiences found the vampire romance "Twilight" infectious in its opening weekend, pushing the movie to a take of $70.6 million.

Catherine Hardwicke's film also enjoyed the biggest opening ever for a female director, blowing away the previous standard of $41.1 million set by Mimi Leder's "Deep Impact" in 1998.

Drawing from its huge fan base of teenage girls, who fell for Stephenie Meyer's novel of forbidden love between brooding vampire Edward Cullen and bookish high schooler Bella Swan, "Twilight" made a whopping $20,636 per theater, according to Sunday morning estimates.

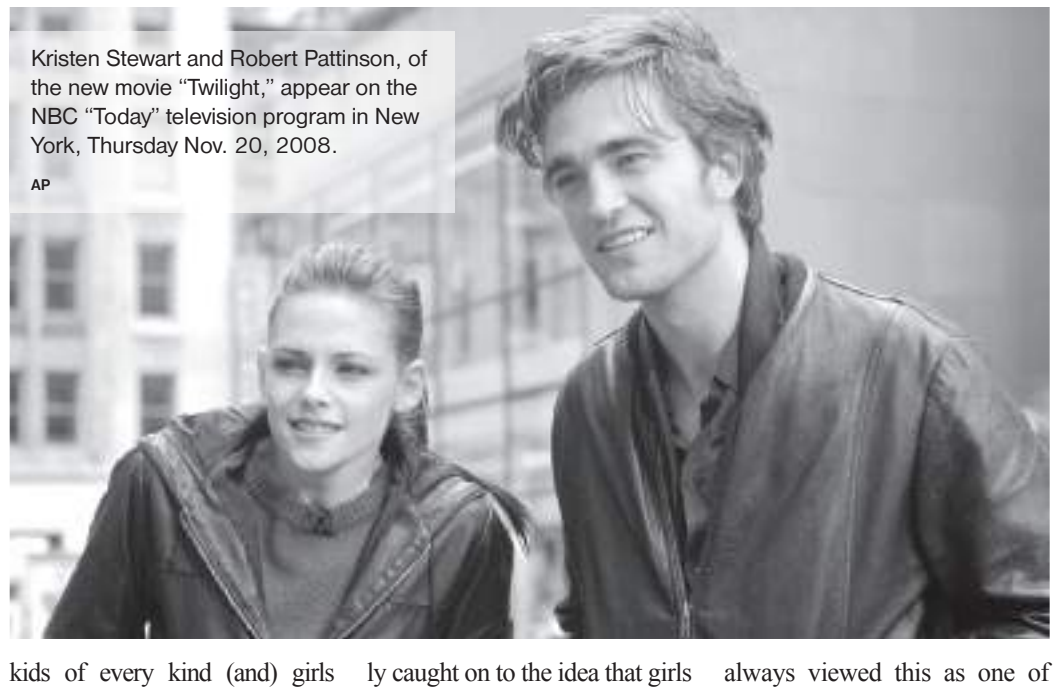
And the fangirls will get another taste soon enough: Summit Entertainment, which released "Twilight," announced during the weekend that it's going ahead with production of "New Moon," based on the second book in Meyer's internationally best-selling series. Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart will return as its star-crossed lovers, but whether Hardwicke will be at the helm again is still being determined.

The laid-back Hardwicke, who went bodyboarding at sunset Saturday to take her mind off this high-pressure weekend, said Sunday morning that she was heading to a meeting later in the day to discuss her possible involvement in "New Moon."

"I want to be sure that it's going to be done right. I don't want to rush into it," she said. "It's not like `Friday the 13th' or `Halloween,' you can't just do it super fast and knock another one out. I want to understand their plans and all that."

Hardwicke, whose previous films include "Thirteen" and "Lords of Dogtown," also said she was thrilled about the prospect that the success of "Twilight" will inspire other women and young girls to pursue a career in filmmaking.

"I hope not just women but all minorities get enthused and encouraged by it. I look at the (Directors Guild of America) calendar, at the pictures of everyone that had different movies each month, and it's usually 22-29 different directors, and almost every month there's one female and maybe one minority," she said. "We've been having a lot of events, talking to a lot of fans, and so many kids of course are madly in love with Robert but tons of kids of every kind (and) girls are coming up to me and saying `I want to direct now, I'm writing a screenplay now, you're my inspiration.' I think it's great that people are getting excited."



Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson, of the new movie "Twilight," appear on the NBC "Today" television program in New York, Thursday Nov. 20, 2008.

AP

The big opening for "Twilight" also helps put Summit Entertainment on the map, said Richie Say, the company's president of domestic distribution. Summit has only been around since April 2007 and "Twilight," its sixth release, cost just $37 million to make.

"It certainly says what we've been saying all along, that we can do more with less," he said. When Warner Bros. pushed "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" from this weekend to a July 2009 debut, and Summit jumped to move "Twilight" from Dec. 12 into that spot on the schedule, "that decision was made in a day. I don't know that the major studios have that ability."

The tremendous take for "Twilight" far exceeded expectations, which had been set around $50 million.

"Teen girls rule the earth," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Media By Numbers. "If you look back at the `Hannah Montana' movie, how well that did, and now this movie, the teen girl audience will never be ignored again or underestimated. It was always teen boys who were the coveted ones, but someone finally caught on to the idea that girls love movies, too, and if you create something that they're into, that they're passionate about, they will come out in big numbers and drive the box office."

The other major debut of the weekend, Walt Disney's 3-D animated "Bolt," made $27 million to take third place. Featuring the voices of John Travolta and Miley Cyrus, "Bolt" follows the cross-country journey of a dog who plays a superhero on television, but sadly realizes he has no magical powers once he gets separated from his "person."

Chuck Viane, Disney's head of distribution, said "Twilight" took a bite out of everyone's box office this weekend. If the vampire saga hadn't been around, Viane said, Disney would have expected an opening of at least $30 million.

"Obviously we believe in the Thanksgiving holiday in a big, big way," he said. "We've always viewed this as one of those 10-day marathons between opening day and the end of the Thanksgiving weekend." Last weekend's No. 1 movie, "Quantum of Solace," came in second with $27.4 million. The latest James Bond extravaganza has now grossed $109.5 million, and it crossed the $100 million mark faster than any other film in the franchise, said Rory Bruer, head of distribution for Sony. It's also made $309 million internationally.

"We're in great shape. We're way ahead of where we were with `Casino Royale,'" said Bruer, referring to the last Bond picture, which also starred Daniel Craig as a more visceral incarnation of 007.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. "**Twilight**," $70.5 million
2. "**Quantum of Solace**," $27.4 million
3. "**Bolt**," $27 million
4. "**Madagascar 2: Escape 2 Africa**," $16 million
5. "**Role Models**." $7.2 million
6. "**Changeling**," $2.6 million
7. "**High School Musical 3: Senior Year**," $2 million
8. "**Zack and Miri Make a Porno**," $1.7 million.
9. "**The Boy in the Striped Pajamas**," $1.67 million
10. "**The Secret Life of Bees**," $1.28 million

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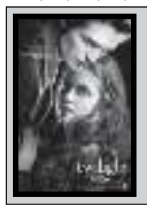

Twilight

Friday		4:25	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:30	
Mon and Tues		4:25	7:30	
Wednesday		4:25	7:30	10:00
Thursday	1:30	4:25	7:30	10:00

Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson
Drama, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Bella Swan has always been a little bit different, never caring about fitting in with the trendy girls at her Phoenix high school. When her mother re-marries and sends Bella to live with her father in the rainy little town of Forks, Washington, she doesn't expect much of anything to change. Then she meets the mysterious and dazzlingly beautiful Edward Cullen, a boy unlike any she's ever met. Edward is a vampire, but he doesn't have fangs and his family is unique in that they choose not to drink human blood.

Bolt

Friday		4:15	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:00	
Mon and Tues		4:15	7:00	
Wednesday		4:15	7:00	9:30
Thursday	1:10	4:15	7:00	9:30

John Travolta, Miley Cyrus
Action, Animated • Rated PG

Synopsis

For super-dog Bolt, every day is filled with adventure, danger and intrigue--at least until the cameras stop rolling. When the star of a hit TV show is accidentally shipped from his Hollywood soundstage to New York City, he begins his biggest adventure yet--a cross-country journey through the real world to get back to his owner and co-star, Penny.

★ ★ ★

Quantum of Solace

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:20	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05	
Mon and Tues		4:20	7:05	
Wednesday		4:20	7:05	9:35
Thursday	1:05	4:20	7:05	9:35

Daniel Craig, Judi Dench
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Betrayed by Vesper, the woman he loved, 007 fights the urge to make his latest mission personal. Pursuing his determination to uncover the truth, James Bond and M interrogate Mr. White who reveals the organization which blackmailed Vesper is far more complex and dangerous than anyone had imagined. Forensic intelligence links an Mi6 traitor to a bank account in Haiti where a case of mistaken identity introduces Bond to the beautiful but feisty Camille, a woman who has her own vendetta.

Madagascar Escape 2 Africa

Friday		4:10	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:25	
Mon and Tues		4:10	7:25	
Wednesday		4:10	7:25	9:40
Thursday	1:20	4:10	7:25	9:40

Ben Stiller, Chris Rock
Comedy, Animated • Rated PG

Role Models

Friday		4:30	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:15	
Mon and Tues		4:30	7:15	
Wednesday		4:30	7:15	9:55
Thursday	1:25	4:30	7:15	9:55

Seann William Scott, Paul Rudd
Comedy, Drama • Rated R

High School Musical 3

Friday		4:00	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:15	4:00	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:15	4:00	7:10	
Mon and Tues		4:00	7:10	
Wednesday		4:00	7:10	9:45
Thursday	1:15	4:00	7:10	9:45

Zac Efron, Ashley Tisdale
Musical • Rated G

Eagle Eye

Friday		4:05	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:00	4:05	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:00	4:05	7:20	
Mon and Tues		4:05	7:20	
Wednesday		4:05	7:20	9:50
Thursday	1:00	4:05	7:20	9:50

Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan
Drama • Rated PG 13

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Stiller, Rock say Israel's better than Hollywood

JERUSALEM (AP)—Chris Rock says Israel is better than Hollywood. Ben Stiller agrees.

The two Hollywood stars are in Israel for the premiere of their latest movie, "Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa." The premiere was in the coastal Israeli city of Netanya on Saturday. Stiller says it's a good place to roll out a new movie. He said, "This is better than any premiere we have had so far."

Rock expanded on that. He said, "It's much better than Hollywood. They don't like us in Hollywood, but here they love us."

The animated film features animal characters escaping from Madagascar to the African mainland in a zany adventure.

Stiller also visited the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem, the holiest site where Jews can pray, and the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial.

Malkovich to film documentary about migrants

MEXICO CITY (AP)—John Malkovich is so touched by the plight of migrant children who cross illegally into the United States that he plans to make a documentary about it.

The actor and director says the documentary, which will be titled "Triple Crossing," will seek to humanize the issue of illegal migration.

Malkovich said Wednesday the film will be produced by Canana Films, a production company owned by Mexican actors Diego Luna and Gael Garcia Bernal.

Malkovich, of "Burn After Reading," is in Mexico directing the play "The Good Canary."

Luna, of "The Terminal" and "Y Tu Mama Tambien," interprets the play's lead character, writer Jack Parker.

The play opens Nov. 26 for 10 weeks in Mexico City's Teatro Insurgentes.

Vatican: Beatles music better than today's songs

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Vatican media are praising the Beatles' musical legacy and sounding philosophical about John Lennon's boast that the British band was more popular than Jesus.

Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano recalls that Lennon's comment outraged many when he made it in 1966.

But it says in its Saturday edition that the remark can be written off now as the bragging of a young man wrestling with unexpected success. The newspaper as well as Vatican Radio last week noted the 40th anniversary of the Beatles' "White Album."

It said the album demonstrated how creative the Beatles were, compared with what it called the "standardized, stereotypical" songs being produced today.

The Beatles pose together on Feb. 28, 1968 in an unknown location. From left are Paul McCartney, John Lennon, Ringo Starr and George Harrison.

AP

O'Donnell plucks teen from obscurity for TV movie

DETROIT (AP)—Rosie O'Donnell saw a teenager at a Detroit restaurant and thought he had a face that belonged in pictures.

Now 17-year-old Philip Johnson has the lead role in "America," a Lifetime network movie also starring O'Donnell and Ruby Dee that is set for broadcast in February.

O'Donnell

Johnson, a senior at Cass Technological High School, was eating lunch at Small Plates, a popular downtown eatery, when O'Donnell spotted him and asked whether he would be interested in trying out for a film. He took a screen test the next day and won the title role.

When Johnson first saw O'Donnell in the restaurant, he didn't believe it was her, he said.

"I thought it was just somebody who looked like her," Johnson, who had never acted before, told the Detroit Free Press. "I didn't think it was actually her. I mean, what's Rosie O'Donnell doing in Detroit?"

O'Donnell was in town to work on a movie version of a young-adult novel by E.R. Frank. It's about a teenager named America who has spent most of his life lost in the foster care system. He confronts his troubled past with help from a therapist, played by O'Donnell.

O'Donnell told "Entertainment Tonight" that she sensed "a soulful kind of stillness" in Johnson.

Chris Brown wants to duet with Madonna on new CD

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chris Brown wants Madonna on his next album.

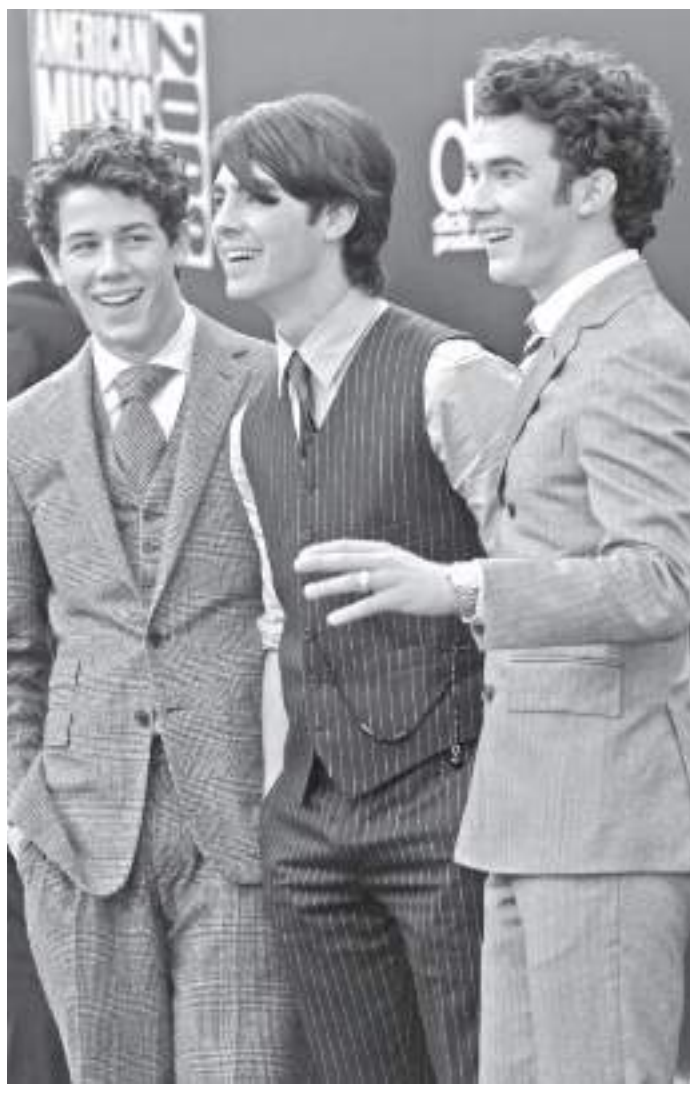
The 19-year-old crooner says the Material Girl would be his dream duet for a track on his upcoming CD "Graffiti," which is due out next year. He says he'd also love to work with Coldplay. He's collaborated with Jordin Sparks, David Banner and girlfriend Rihanna in the past.

Brown predicts that "Graffiti" will be a bigger project for him. Speaking from the red carpet at the American Music Awards, the platinum-selling R&B star said: "It's going to be my stepping stone from Chris Brown to superstar."

If he's not there yet, he's close. Brown took home the most trophies at the Sunday awards show: He won artist of the year, favorite pop-rock and soul-R&B male artist while his gal pal Rihanna won favorite pop-rock and soul-R&B female artist awards.

Chris Brown poses with his awards for Favorite Male Artist, Pop or Rock Music and Favorite Male Artist, Soul/Rhythm & Blues Music backstage at the American Music Awards in Los Angeles on Sunday, Nov. 23, 2008.

AP



Jonas Brothers hope to meet Kanye West

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Jonas Brothers met Coldplay. Now, they want face time with Kanye.

"We got to meet Chris Martin and the guys from Coldplay," said Kevin Jonas, 21, on the red carpet at the American Music Awards. "That to us is huge. We still want to meet Kanye (West). That is our next goal. On his next album, the songs we've heard so far are incredible."

The band took home the trophy for breakthrough artist and performed during the ceremony. The brothers said they will spend Thanksgiving performing during halftime at the Dallas Cowboys-Seattle Seahawks game and Christmas at home with their family.

"Last year, we were in New York City," said Joe. "It's been awhile since we've been home on Christmas."

Nick Jonas, left, Joe Jonas, center, and Kevin Jonas, of the Jonas Brothers arrive at the American Music Awards in Los Angeles on Sunday, Nov. 23, 2008.

AP

The cost of birth control should be equally shared

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: The letter from "All in Love Is Fair" (Oct. 1), asking your opinion about asking her boyfriend to pay for half the cost of her birth control pills, made me chuckle. I have been married for 28 years, but when my husband and I were going together, I paid for my birth control. One day when I was at the pharmacy and my birth control method went from the conveyer belt to the bagger, she remarked how expensive it was. I just smiled and said, "Not as expensive as a baby!" The checker cracked up. I think you gave the writer the correct answer.

BEEN THERE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR BEEN THERE: Thanks for your support, but we are definitely in the minority. I heard from one other reader who agreed with us. On the other hand, thousands of men and women wrote that my answer was sexist and outdated. Please forgive my lapse, folks. I admit that while my batting average may be pretty fair, I am not "pitch" perfect. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I preach equal responsibility for birth control to both my daughters and my son! Shame on you for telling "All in Love" that paying for birth control is only the woman's responsibility. It is the responsibility of both partners. Only when men are as concerned about preventing unwanted pregnancies as women will there be fewer unwanted (and often abused) children and single welfare mothers. Please rethink this.

JEAN W., FORT COLLINS, COLO.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: It's bad enough that women usually have to deal with the birth control issue, but having to pay 100 percent of the cost is absurd. Men should kick in toward other forms of birth control, as they reap the benefits. Likewise, a woman should split the cost of condoms.

Perhaps "All in Love Is Fair" should tell her boyfriend it's now his turn to take care of the birth control and offer to split the cost of the vasectomy.

REBECCA IN ATLANTA

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I work in the area of unintended pregnancy prevention. One of the biggest hurdles this country faces in tackling the problem is getting males to shoulder their responsibility in preventing unintended pregnancy. You have set the field back with your response.

Men who insist that birth control is solely the responsibility of the woman aren't mature enough to be having sex. If the boyfriend is unwilling to contribute toward preventing pregnancy, she should stop having sex with him.

S.S. IN RICHMOND, VA.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I agree with you that a personal prescription drug should not be a shared expense if it's for an illness. But pregnancy is not an illness. Not having children is the responsibility of both parties involved, just as having children is the responsibility of both. Please tell her "Don't pop the pill if he won't share the bill!"

PAUL IN LA PORTE, TEXAS

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When my boyfriend and I became sexually active in college, he went with me to Planned Parenthood and waited while I saw the doctor. He paid half the cost of the birth control device, saying, "This is for our pleasure together, and it protects us from becoming parents before we're ready. It's my responsibility, too." I knew right then that he really loved me, because he cared about my future.

That sweet, honorable boy grew up into a loving and supportive husband. We've been happily married almost 20 years.

MARISSA IN PALO ALTO

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

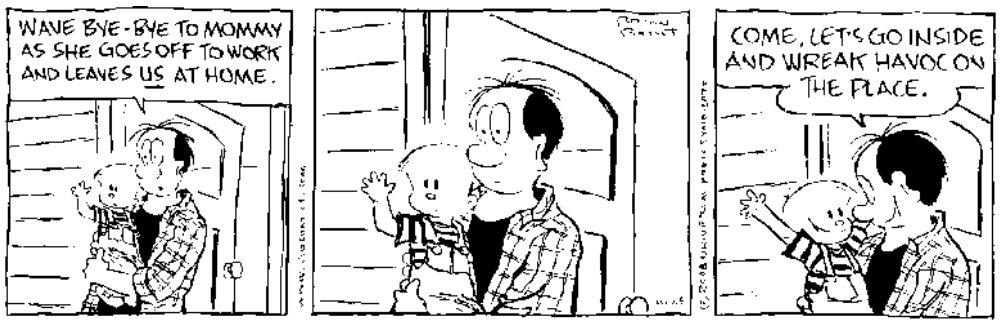
MOMMY. I'M HOME FROM SCHOOL! OPEN THE DOOR FOR ME, OK?
WHAT'S THE MATTER? IT WASN'T LOCKED.
SOMETIMES HOBBES IS WAITING TO POUNCE ON ME AS SOON AS I OPEN THE DOOR.
OH FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE! FROM NOW ON, DON'T CALL ME TO COME TO THE DOOR UNLESS IT'S LOCKED.
HA! I SURE OUTSMARTED HOBBES THIS TIME!
THBBPT!
SISSY.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

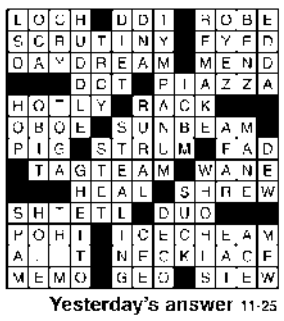
CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

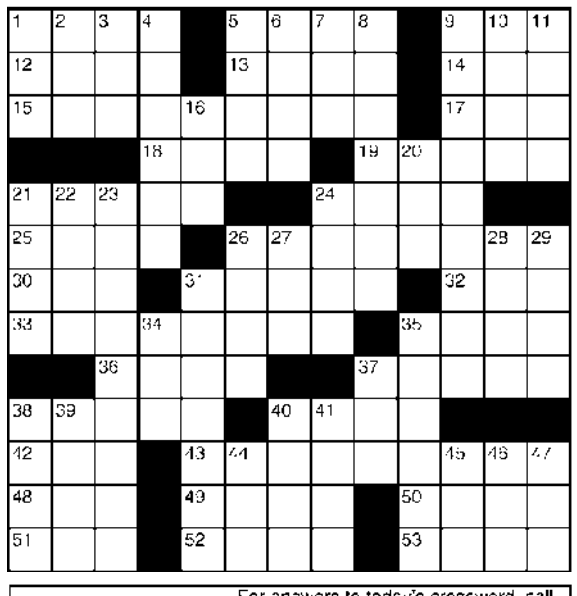
ACROSS
1 Attempt, in basketball
5 Condo, for instance
9 Parcel of land
12 Franc replacement
13 Wounded
14 Commotion
15 Site maintainer
17 Affirmative action?
18 Grow weary
19 Large
21 Shaving tool
24 Elite alternative
25 Teensy bit
26 Sit-ins and such
30 Anderson's "High —"
31 Glistened
32 Gratuity
33 Catching sight of
35 Scott
36 MPs' quarry
37 Actress Halle
38 Bust
40 Shopper's need
42 Last (Abbr.)
43 White gypsum
48 "A pox upon thee!"
49 Honeycomb compartment
50 Vicinity
51 Supporting
52 Gopher's hideout
53 Create

DOWN
1 Stitch
2 Coloration
3 Sphere
4 Long, narrow drum
5 "Back in the —"
6 Staff member?
7 Rage
8 Wood eater
9 York adversary
10 Smell
11 — ist (agenda)
16 Melody
20 Blackjack part
21 "Phooey!"
22 On
23 Persian prophet
24 Vintage video game
26 Dr. McGraw
27 Director Howard
28 Layer
29 Agile
31 Belly
34 Pair
35 Stuff tossed overboard
37 Support system?
38 Enthusiast
39 Hodgepodge
40 Shout
41 Skilled
44 Zodiac cat
45 La-la lead-in
46 "A mouse!"
47 "Norma —"

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 11-25



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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Donovan McNabb, 32; Christina Applegate, 37; Amy Grant, 48; John Larroquette, 61

Happy Birthday: It's the people you know who will count this year. Strive for the ultimate and stay on track and you will reach an all-time high. You have too much at stake sit idle, pondering what you should do next. Prepare to exhaust all your talent, knowledge and skills to the best of your ability. Your numbers are 6, 15, 18, 21, 29, 35, 38

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You can't live in the past and get ahead. Be productive and don't let your emotions and personal life interfere with what needs to be done. Your back is covered as long as you do what's right. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Someone will pull on your heartstrings, making you question your current situation. Be prepared to have a serious talk about your intentions, your future and how you see things unfolding. It's always best to be upfront. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Someone who interests you personally will challenge you. You can learn a lot about the way you really feel through a love experience. A problem with an older relative may become a burden if you don't get assistance quickly. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Focus on friends, family and what you can do to help make life better for yourself and those you love. A positive change at home or in a close relationship will make you realize how lucky you are and what you have to look forward to. Don't let someone you work with ruin your day. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Make plans to have some fun or to get involved in a new activity. You need to get out, enjoy friends or children and let your creative energy benefit others. The satisfaction, coupled with the interesting people you meet, will make it worthwhile. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): A change in your attitude or opinion may cause an argument with family or close friends. Avoid any confrontation; instead, concentrate on self-improvement. Romantic opportunities are on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Dreams can come true if you put in the work. A trip you've been dreaming about is possible if you budget and plan. Mix business with pleasure. Don't let a love connection get you down. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You'll be tempted to give up on something that is so close to being finished. Your emotions will probably cause some self-deception but, if you can see past the frustrations, you will recognize the pluses, not the minuses. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't let anyone take advantage of your good nature or willingness to lend a helping hand. You have to protect yourself from anyone who is demanding or asking for too much. A change in plans can be expected. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Look for peace of mind by getting your papers in order and clearing up what needs attention before year's end. Position yourself for the future. There is much for you to gain by handling other people's affairs. Love will play an important role in a decision today. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): An offer you make will be accepted. You can firm up a partnership with a few simple but meaningful words. A change of plans may take place because someone misunderstood. Be tolerant and adaptable. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Invest in something or someone you love. Stand on your own two feet and don't be afraid to go it alone if you must. A strong stance on your part will bring you added respect and the confidence you need. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are compassionate, sensitive and practical. You stand up for your beliefs and are courageous and outspoken.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		9						
		3	9	8		4		
7	1				4		8	
	8			1		2		
	9		2		3		7	
		6		5			4	
	5		1				9	7
		4		9	5	1		
						6		

Difficulty Level ★★ 11/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	2	7	6	4	9	8	5	3
5	4	8	1	3	7	6	9	2
9	3	6	8	2	5	4	1	7
3	6	5	2	9	4	1	7	8
8	9	4	7	1	3	2	6	5
2	7	1	5	6	8	9	3	4
4	8	3	9	7	6	5	2	1
6	5	2	3	8	1	7	4	9
7	1	9	4	5	2	3	8	6

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PIZZA — Solution: 10 letters

S	P	I	C	E	S	M	P	S	Y	P	E	M	O	H
R	E	D	R	O	B	R	E	A	D	E	U	N	E	M
F	P	O	I	N	O	C	A	R	R	S	A	F	O	(S)
Z	P	U	T	P	U	K	N	I	H	T	M	S	(N)	E
I	E	B	E	A	S	F	C	R	F	O	Y	(A)	T	V
T	R	L	S	H	M	L	O	V	E	N	(P)	E	L	I
E	O	E	I	F	G	O	S	X	H	F	Z	R	Z	L
P	N	S	R	Z	M	U	T	D	C	I	A	G	H	O
P	I	E	S	S	N	R	O	O	S	S	M	R	S	N
A	S	Y	E	D	A	O	V	D	P	H	E	K	I	I
H	A	L	R	S	W	U	E	M	C	P	D	C	N	O
S	L	I	C	I	N	G	S	E	E	R	I	A	R	N
L	E	O	L	U	N	C	H	A	I	N	U	N	A	S
D	I	N	F	S	S	A	I	T	G	I	M	S	G	A
E	S	E	E	H	C	O	N	A	G	E	R	O	T	S

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Appetizer, Bacon, Bread, Chair, Cheese, Chef, Cook, Cost, Crust, Dines, Dips, Double, Dough, Extras, Fish, Four, Fresh, Garnish, Grease, Home, Lunch, Meal, Medium, Menu, Mushrooms, Oily, Olives, Onions, Order, Oregano, Oven, Pans, Party, Pepperoni, Pesto, Rise, Sale, Salt, Sauces, Sausage, Sell, Size, Slicing, Small, Snack, Spices, Stoves, Surprised, Thin, Tomatoes, Toppings, Toss, Wood, Yeast

Yesterday's Answer: Cephalopod

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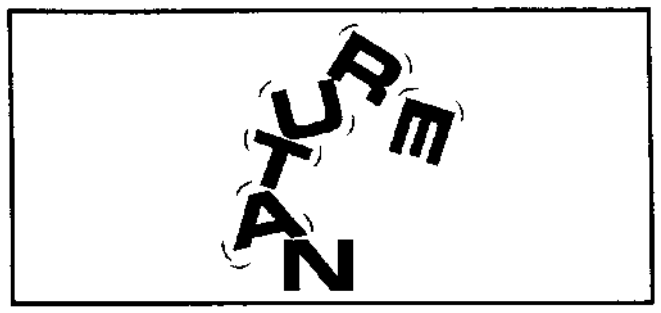

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Attorney for The Petitioner.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In re the Guardianship of MICHAEL SUNG KIM, a minor male child, By:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0683
VANCE EDWARD ALLEN HUBBLE, EUN MI SEONG HUBBLE, KWON NAM KIM, and EUN JU SUNG KIM, Petitioner.	NOTICE OF HEARING ON GUARDIANSHIP

NOTICE IS GIVEN that a hearing on Petitioners Vance Edward Allen Hubble's, Eun Mi Seong Hubble's, Kwon Nam Kim's, and Eun Ju Sung Kim's Verified Petition to Appoint General Guardians (filed November 24, 2008) to appoint Petitioners Vance Edward Allen Hubble and Eun Mi Seong Hubble as general guardians of Michael Sung Kim, a minor male child, is hereby set for **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2008, at 1:30 p.m.,** at the CNMI Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, Courtroom 205. A copy of the Verified Petition to Appoint General Guardians (filed November 24, 2008) is available for review upon request from the Clerk of Court.

Dated this 24th day of November, 2008.

/S/ F. MATTHEW SMITH (F0264)
Attorney for Petitioners

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JVA#08-006	Personnel Manager	December 2, 2008

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

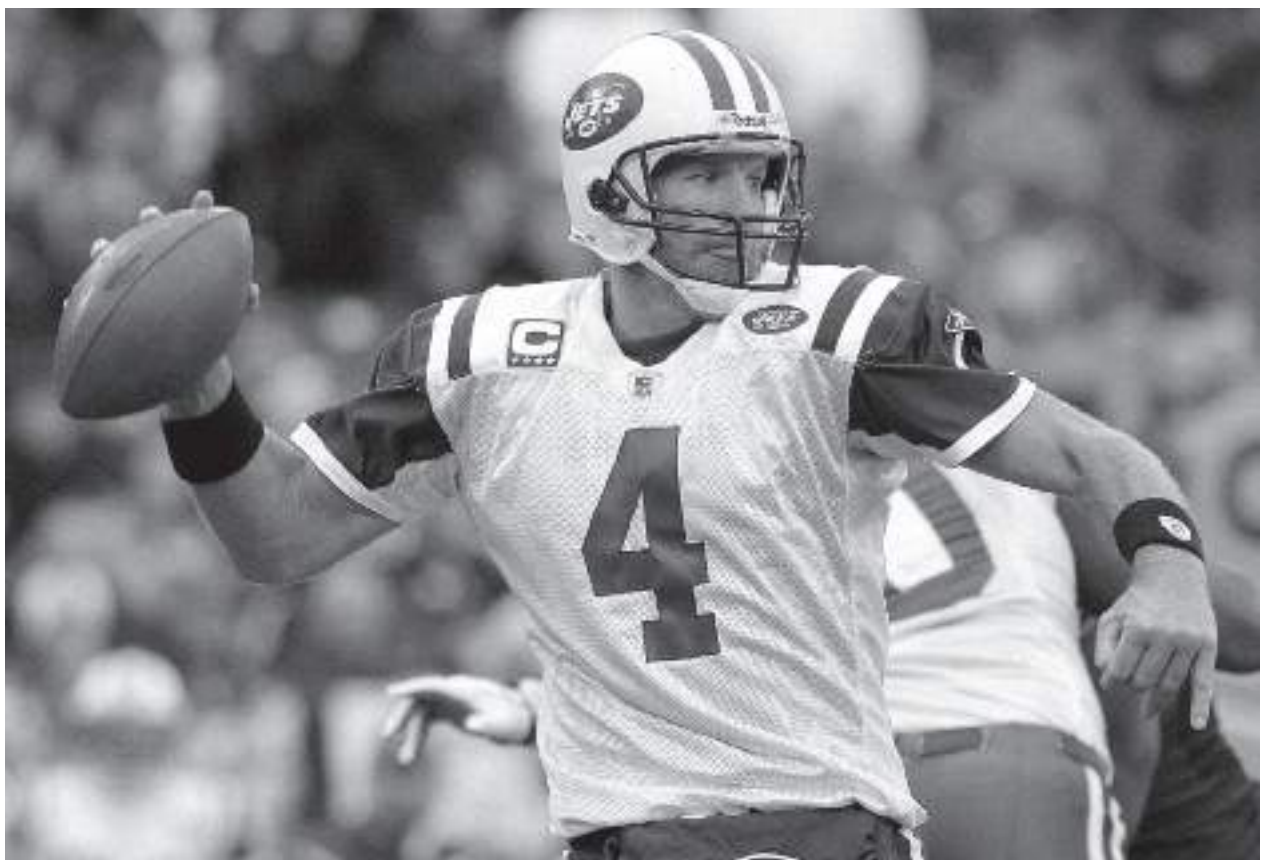
Jets rout previously unbeaten Titans

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—Brett Favre threw two touchdown passes, Leon Washington ran for two scores and the New York Jets routed the Tennessee Titans 34-13 on Sunday, snapping the 13-game regular-season winning streak by the NFL's last undefeated team.

The Jets (8-3) came in atop the American Football League East after a victory over New England at Foxborough. They have won five straight for the first time since October 2004 and seven of their last eight.

The Titans (10-1) hadn't lost since Dec. 16, 2007, in becoming only the 11th team since 1970 to win its first 10 games.

Favre threw for 224 yards and broke a tie with Dan Marino for victories in the most NFL stadiums by winning in his 32nd at LP Field.



AP

New York Jets quarterback Brett Favre passes against the Tennessee Titans in the fourth quarter of an NFL football game in Nashville, Tenn., Sunday, Nov. 23, 2008.

Patriots 48, Dolphins 28

At Miami, Matt Cassel threw for 415 yards, Randy Moss caught three touchdown passes and the resilient Patriots won a shootout.

The Patriots (7-4), who remained a game behind the AFC East-leading New York Jets, avenged an upset loss to Miami in September. New England hasn't been swept in a season series by a division opponent since 2000.

For the Dolphins (6-5), the loss snapped a four-game winning streak and hurt their chances of an improbable playoff berth after going 1-15 last year.

Cowboys 35, 49ers 22

At Irving, Texas, Terrell Owens broke out with seven catches for 213 yards to help Dallas beat San Francisco.

Owens' total was the second-most of his career, behind only the 283 yards he had in the 2000 game in which he caught an NFL-record 20 passes, back when he played for the 49ers, and tied the fourth-best in Cowboys history.

Shaun Hill was 21-of-33 for 303 yards for the 49ers (3-8), but was sacked four times.

Ravens 36, Eagles 7

At Baltimore, Donovan McNabb watched from the sideline as the Baltimore Ravens beat the Philadelphia Eagles, presenting first-year coach John Harbaugh with a lopsided victory over the team he served as an assistant for 10 years.

Ed Reed picked off McNabb's halftime replacement, Kevin Kolb, and returned the interception an NFL-record 108 yards for a touchdown to give Baltimore (7-4) a 22-point cushion with 7:24 left.

McNabb was 8-for-18 for 59 yards with two interceptions and a fumble in the first half—a miserable 13.2 quarterback rating.

Bills 54, Chiefs 31

At Kansas City, Missouri, Trent Edwards threw for two touchdowns, ran for two others and Buffalo scored more points than had ever been scored against Kansas City.

The Bills (6-5) pounced on five Kansas City turnovers and came within four points of matching their 42-year-old record for most points in a game. The previous high against the Chiefs was 51 in an overtime loss at Seattle in 1983.

Vikings 30, Jaguars 12

At Jacksonville, Florida, Adrian Peterson ran for 80 yards and a touchdown, Minnesota's defense harassed the Jaguars in all sorts of ways and the Vikings used two scores in the first 1:41 to beat Jacksonville.

With their second road win of the season, the Vikings (6-5) kept pace with Chicago in the National Football Conference North. The Jaguars (4-7) fell to 1-5 at home, and faded even further back in the AFC playoff race.

Texans 16, Browns 6

At Cleveland, Sage Rosenfels passed for 275 yards and a touchdown, and Kris Brown kicked three field goals as Houston snapped an eight-game losing streak outside Texas with a win over the bumbling Browns.

The Texans (4-7) had lost five straight road games this season and hadn't won away from home since Nov. 4, 2007, at Oakland. But all it took was a weekend in Cleveland to fix their travel woes.

Bears 27, Rams 3

At St. Louis, rookie Matt Forte had a season-high 132 yards rushing and scored on two long runs, and Marc Bulger lasted only five plays before sustaining a concussion against a defense that had three of a season-best five sacks by the break and helped Chicago build a 21-point cushion.

Kyle Orton set a franchise record by throwing 185 consecutive passes without an interception as the Bears (6-5) rebounded from a blowout loss at Green Bay last week and kept a share of first place in the balanced NFC North.

Buccaneers 38, Lions 20

At Detroit, Tampa Bay fell behind the winless Detroit Lions by 17 points, then scored five unanswered touchdowns en route to its third straight victory.

The Buccaneers (8-3) trailed 17-0 after the first quarter before all three phases scored to contribute to a rout. Warrick Dunn ran for a touchdown and Jeff Garcia connected with Ike Hilliard and Jerramy Stevens for scores in the second quarter to put the Bucs ahead 21-17.

Giants 37, Cardinals 29

At Glendale, Arizona, Eli Manning threw for three touchdowns in his return to the scene of his Super Bowl MVP performance and the Giants beat Arizona to snap the Cardinals' seven-game home winning streak.

With starting running back Brandon Jacobs out with a knee injury, the Giants took to the air to win their sixth in a row. Manning completed 26 of 33 for 240 yards with no interceptions. On the field where they upset New England in last season's Super Bowl, the Giants (10-1) took the lead late in the first half and never relinquished it.

Oakland 31, Denver 10

At Denver, Ashley Lelie, who forced a trade out of Denver in 2006 after a bitter holdout, returned to Invesco Field helped lead Oakland to a stunning win over the Broncos by catching a touchdown pass and setting up another with a spectacular 51-yard reception.

Falcons 45, Panthers 28

At Atlanta, Michael Turner scored four touchdowns and rookie Harry Douglas scored his first career TD on a 7-yard end around, caught a 69-yard pass that set up a TD, then finished off the Carolina Panthers with a 61-yard punt return that carried the Atlanta Falcons to a win.

Jake Delhomme was 21-of-35 for 295 yards, hooking up with Steve Smith on eight passes for 168 yards for the Panthers (8-3).

Redskins 20, Seahawks 17

At Seattle, Clinton Portis darted and pounded for 143 yards on 29 carries, including key ones late that helped preserve Washington's first victory in almost a month.

Portis was questionable to play after missing most of practice this week because of his sprained knee. Then, the NFL's leader in yards from scrimmage injured a muscle near his hip late in the first half, when he rushed for 69 of his yards.

Colts 23, Chargers 20

At San Diego, Adam Vinatieri made a 51-yard field goal as time expired to lift Peyton Manning and Indianapolis to a heart-stopping win over San Diego.

He was kicking toward the same goal posts where just more than a year ago he pushed a 29-yard field-goal attempt wide right with 1:31 left, allowing the Chargers to hold on for a 23-21 win.

BCS standings favor Texas, for now

NEW YORK (AP)—The initial news from the BCS standings looked good for Texas. The long-range forecast, however, favors Oklahoma.

The Longhorns stayed ahead of the Sooners on Sunday—but not by much—and moved into the coveted second spot in the standings, thanks to a better computer rating.

The Sooners surged in the standings on the strength of a 65-21 victory against Texas Tech, which dropped to seventh place.

"This was a good week for Oklahoma," said Jerry Palm, an independent BCS analyst and blogger, in a telephone interview. "It wasn't really to be expected that they'd catch Texas this week."

Alabama remained on top of the standings, a comfortable No. 1 in both the USA Today coaches' poll and Harris poll, and best according to the computers. The Crimson Tide are two wins away from playing for their first national title since 1992. The Tide plays Auburn on Saturday and Florida in the Southeastern Conference title game.

Texas is close behind Oklahoma in both polls, but has the second-best computer rating. The Longhorns' BCS average is .9209 out of a possible 1.000.

Oklahoma is at .9125. But the Sooners have a road game against Oklahoma State (9-2) on Saturday that—if they win—should boost their computer score and likely sway a few more voters their way.

Texas plays Texas A&M (4-7) on Thanksgiving, a game that will weigh down the Longhorns' strength of schedule—a vital part of the computer ratings—and won't give voters much reason to move them up.

"I don't think this week was good news for Texas," Palm said of Sunday's standings. "Oklahoma can only get better in all three parts of the formula and Texas can't.

"I would expect if Oklahoma wins next week they'd finish ahead of Texas."

That's important because the Big 12 South division title will be decided by the BCS standings if Texas, Texas Tech and Oklahoma finish in a three-way tie.

"We're happy to see that we're still in the BCS conversation," Texas coach Mack Brown said. "We talked to the team briefly about that after practice today, like we do every Sunday, but after that, we decided with the kids and everyone in the program that we need to turn all of our attention to Texas A&M. None of it matters if we're not ready for the Aggies so after our discussion today, there will be no more talking about the BCS until after the game."

Florida (.8755) is in fourth, but the Gators still control their own destiny, too. If Florida wins at Florida State on Saturday and beats 'Bama for the SEC title, Tim Tebow and the Gators will be back in the national championship game for the second time in three seasons.

Southern California (.7974) is in fifth place, but with one less team to jump after the Red Raiders were handed their first loss of the season.

Utah was in sixth, but the Utes are just waiting to find out what BCS game they'll play in.

Utah finished its perfect regular season with a 48-24 victory against BYU on Saturday that gave the Utes the Mountain West Conference championship.

Teams from the MWC and four other conferences without an automatic bid to the BCS earn a guaranteed spot in the four big-money bowl games by finishing in the top 12 of the final BCS standings. Utah is safe.

That means Boise State, which is in ninth place, is probably out of the BCS mix, even if the Broncos remain undefeated. Boise State would be eligible for an at-large bid, but that isn't likely.

Eighth-place Penn State locked up the Big Ten's BCS spot and is likely heading to the Rose Bowl.

Oregon State, in 17th place, could be next to earn a BCS bid, taking the Pac-10's automatic spot in the Rose Bowl if it beats Oregon on Saturday.

Sixteenth-place Cincinnati is also a win away from locking up a BCS bid and its first Big East title. The Bearcats face Syracuse at home on Saturday.

Barkley, Manning honored at college hall

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Charles Barkley isn't afraid to talk about race, readily explains how dumb college basketball players are for leaving school, and doesn't hesitate in making fun of NBA players when they do something foolish.

A man of many words, Barkley had just a few when he was inducted into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame on Sunday night.

"This is a really cool honor," he said. "I've had obviously a magnificent life and this is just more icing on the cake."

Barkley was honored with a 2008 class that included former Kansas star Danny Manning, Arkansas coach Nolan Richardson and longtime Mount St. Mary's coach Jim Phelan. Former Utah All-American Arnie Ferrin also entered the college hall, as did announcers Dick Vitale and Billy Packer as contributors.

In a room full of basketball dignitaries that included Bob Knight, John Thompson and Kansas coach Bill Self, Barkley was arguably the biggest draw—ESPN's Vitale was probably a close second—because of his visibility.

One of the NBA's greatest players, Barkley's presence didn't diminish after his playing days thanks to his success as a commentator, pitchman—Ferrin said his grandson wanted to know if Barkley ever got his socks from Dwyane Wade—and late-night talk show guest.

But before he became a multimedia presence, Barkley was a pretty good college player.

Nicknamed the "Round Mound of Rebound" because of his rotund stature, Barkley was a phenomenally talented, undersized center for three years at Auburn.

Generously listed at 6-foot-5, Barkley led the Tigers to the NCAA tournament for the first time in 1984, the same year he was an All-American and the Southeastern Conference player of the year. Often facing players six inches taller, Barkley led the SEC in rebounding three years straight and set the Auburn career record for career field goal shooting at 62.4 percent.

AP

The 2008 National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame inductees from left, Charles Barkley, Jim Phelan, Arnie Ferrin, Billy Packer, Danny Manning, Dick Vitale and Nolan Richardson receive a standing ovation at the conclusion of the ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 23, 2008, in Kansas City, Mo.

"He impressed me as one of the most outstanding big guys I had ever seen in my entire life," Richardson said.

At the opposite end of the attention-getting spectrum is Manning.

He's been credited with single-handedly leading Kansas to the 1988 national championship, playing one of the greatest games in NCAA tournament history with 31 points, 18 rebounds, five steals and two blocked shots in the title game.

Despite that performance, and winning the Wooden and Naismith awards along with being a first-team All-American, Manning never liked the attention that came with being part of "Danny and the Miracles." The 6-foot-10 forward shied away from media attention, particularly after his career, returning to comfortable Lawrence to coach at his alma mater, where he can blend in at least a little bit.

"Awards like this are very special," he said. "You have to be a little fortunate to receive them. You have to be with a team that is very unselfish. That is certainly something I had a chance to experience."

Vitale might be the antithesis of Manning.

He had a nice college coaching career, leading the University of Detroit to the 1977 NCAA tournament and a 78-30 record from 1972-78. Vitale didn't have much visibility, though, until he sat behind a microphone.

Known for his bombastic style and catch phrases—"That's awesome, baby!"—Vitale has become a voice of college basketball for ESPN since the network went on air in 1979. He also became a pop-culture icon, appearing in commercials and drawing his own fans at arenas across the nation.

Now, even at 69, just one year removed from throat surgery that could have ended his career, Vitale is still a bundle of energy, hitting the motivational speech circuit, doing book signings, still shouting at all those college basketball games.

"It's unbelievable. It's a dream," Vitale said. "I'm in the last stage of my life. I'm in the last chapter. I want to make it my best."

Packer's approach to announcing was a bit more low-key than Vitale's.

He occasionally riled up players, coaches and fans with his brutally honest approach—he received death threats after downplaying Larry Bird's significance at Indiana State—but was always a steady presence courtside.

Packer served as an analyst for 28 seasons at CBS and called some of the greatest moments in college basketball history during 34 consecutive years at the Final Four.

"I've been involved in television as a broadcaster and it's not only humbling to go into the hall of fame, but also as a person who really understands the history of college basketball on television, there are many guys who should be in way before somebody like myself," Packer said.

Richardson started his career under mentor Don Haskins at Texas Wesleyan and later coached at Tulsa. But it wasn't until he arrived in Fayetteville, Ark., that Richardson made his mark.

The fiery coach used his "40 minutes of Hell" defense to swarm opponents, leading Arkansas to NCAA tournament to the Final Four three times, including a national title in 1994. The first black coach in SEC history, Richardson is the only coach to have won junior college, NIT and national championships.

Still Arkansas' all-time winningest coach with 389 victories, Richardson was fired in 2002 and later lost a discrimination suit against the school.

Phelan was famous for wearing a bow tie on the sideline while coaching 49 seasons at Mount St. Mary's. He's the all-time leader in games coached with 1,354 and is fourth in wins with 830. A two-time national coach of the year, Phelan led Mount St. Mary's to the NCAA Division II tournament 16 times, winning in 1962.

The sweet-shooting Ferrin is the only four-time All-American in Utah history, leading the Utes to the NCAA championship as a freshman in 1944 and to an NIT title in 1947. He later went on to win a title with the Minneapolis Lakers, joining Tom Gola as the only players to win NIT, NCAA and NBA championships.

Celtics win 5th straight, beat Raptors

TORONTO (AP)—Ray Allen scored 21 points and the Boston Celtics led from the start in winning their fifth straight game, 118-103 over the Toronto Raptors on Sunday.

Kevin Garnett, Rajon Rondo and Tony Allen each scored 15 points for the Celtics, who have won 11 of 12 since a Nov. 1 loss to Indiana.

Kendrick Perkins had 12 points and Paul Pierce and Eddie House each scored 11 in helping Boston score a season high. Its previous best was 110 points in a Nov. 18 victory over New York.

Chris Bosh led Toronto with 24 points, while Jose Calderon had 14 points and nine assists. Andrea Bargnani and Anthony Parker had 14 apiece for the Raptors, who are 2-4 at home.

Lakers 118, Kings 108

At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 24 points, Andrew Bynum had 15 points and 10 rebounds, and Los Angeles beat Sacramento to improve the NBA's best record to 11-1.

All five Lakers starters reached double figures in points by the third quarter, and eight players finished with 10 or more as the defending Western Conference champions won for the fourth straight time since losing to Detroit at home.

John Salmons led Sacramento with 24 points and reserve Bobby Brown added 21.

Timberwolves 106, Pistons 80

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Randy Foye had 23 points and a career-high 14 assists, and Minnesota beat Detroit for its first road victory of the season.

Ryan Gomes added 20 points for Minnesota, while Al Jefferson had 19 points and reserve Craig Smith scored 16.

Tayshaun Prince led the Pistons with 20 points, but Jason Maxiell was the only other player to reach double figures with 12.

Nuggets 114, Bulls 101

At Denver, Kenyon Martin scored 26 points, Carmelo Anthony had 21 points and 13 rebounds, and Denver beat Chicago.

Chauncey Billups and Nene also added 21 points as Denver moved to 8-2 since the acquisition of Billups. Denver closed the game out on an 18-2 spurt.

Ben Gordon scored 28 points for the Bulls, hitting 5-of-7 3-pointers. He also hit all nine of his free throw attempts. Drew Gooden finished with 21 points as the Bulls lost for the ninth time in 10 visits to the Mile High City.

76ers 89, Warriors 81

At Philadelphia, Elton Brand had 23 points and 12 rebounds, Andre Iguodala added 15 points and Philadelphia moved above .500 for the first time this season by beating Golden State.

Thaddeus Young contributed 12 points and Samuel Dalembert had 16 rebounds for the Sixers, who improved to 7-6 and snapped a five-game losing streak to the Warriors.

Kelenna Azubuike scored 16 while C.J. Watson and Stephen Jackson had 12 apiece for Golden State, which dropped its second in a row. The high-flying Warriors were held well below the NBA-leading 105.4 points they were averaging before the game.

Montgomery admits he doped before Sydney Games

NEW YORK (AP)—Disgraced former world record holder Tim Montgomery said he took testosterone and human growth hormone before the Sydney Olympics, and does not deserve the gold medal he won in the 400-meter relay.

The admission was made during an interview scheduled to air Tuesday night on HBO's "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel."

"I have a gold medal that I'm sitting on that I didn't get with my own ability," Montgomery said in the interview. "I'm not here to take away from anybody else's accomplishments, only my own. And I must say, I apologize to the other people that was on the relay team if that was to happen."

Montgomery never tested positive for drugs, but he was banned from track for two years and his world record in the 100 was erased after he was linked to the BALCO investigation. He retired after the ban was imposed in 2005.

He did not say in the interview when or how often he had taken testosterone, just that he had done so before Sydney. He also said he took HGH four times a month.

"If Tim Montgomery cheated at the games, then he should step forward and voluntarily return his medal, just as others from the 2000 team have done," Darryl Seibel, spokesman for the U.S. Olympic Committee, said on Sunday. "By using a banned substance, any result he achieved is tainted.

"He has a responsibility to his sport, to the athletes against whom he competed in Sydney and also to the new generation of track athletes who are doing their best to compete the right way and put problems like this in the past."

How Montgomery's admission might affect his teammates is not clear. Jon Drummond, Bernard Williams, Brian Lewis, Maurice Greene and Kenneth Brokenburr were the other members of the 400 relay team.

The International Olympic Committee has taken a tough stance toward doping, stripping entire relay teams of their results and medals if even one member is found to have cheated. The U.S. men's team that won the 1,600 relay in Sydney had to give up its medals after Antonio Pettigrew admitted doping.

The IOC also vacated the victory by the U.S. women's 1,600 relay team in Sydney and the third-place finish of the 400 relay squad because Marion Jones, Montgomery's former girlfriend, had doped.

NMA holds Turkey Trot Thursday

The Northern Marianas Athletics will be holding the 23rd Annual Mt. Tapochao Thanksgiving Day Run this Thursday.

Registration will begin at 5:15am at Lower Base, while the race will start at 6am.

Entrance fee is $10 for adults and $5 for 18-and-under runners.

The first 125 finishers will receive T-shirts, while winners in various age groups will be given prizes.

Young middle distance runner Nate Mateo and XTERRA World participant Mieko Carey topped last year's Turkey Trot.

Mateo completed the 4.2-mile uphill race in 41 minutes, 50 seconds to finish first overall among more than 30 runners and top the 18-and-under division.

Carey finished fifth overall with her time of 45:08, but was on top of the field in her age group.

Other division winners last year were Angelo Jones (48:15), Gary Camacho (46.39), Butch Sublemente (42:41), Yoshi Suzuki (45:18), Kevin Carey (47:43), Gabrielle Race (1:14: 16), Keanna Villagomez (1:12:07), Mamiko Oshima (45:39), Irma Hallaby (1:01:17), and Monica Yamaguchi (52:15)

More information about this Thursday's race, contact Elias Rangamar at 664-2502 or Kurt Barnes at 235-5853. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

Participants from the 22nd Annual Mt. Tapochao Thanksgiving Day Run labor up to Capital Hill on their way to Mt. Tapochao.

MARK RABAGO

TORGESON

From Page 28

division were Ken Pierson (36:47), Tyce Mister (37:18), Florian Briag (37:57), and Antonee Aguilar (38:41).

In the women's division, Carey failed to set a new record, but she still finished ahead of four other female riders after completing the hilly race in 41:26.

Carey timed in at 39:36 last year to shatter Kimiko Hasagawa's record of 47:02 in 2006.

Mamiko Berger finished second with a time of 45:47, while Hasegawa placed third with her 49:00 mark. Event co-organizer Kanae Quinn (54:37) and Betty Johnson (1:05:51) were the two other female riders who braved the hilly climb.

A total of 28 riders joined the third edition of the annual race.

Other finishers were Kevin Carey (39:51), Chris Fryling (40:02), Rene Calage (40:37), Richy Melchor (43:05), Yosh Gabaldon (44:02), Alex Racoma (46:13), Mike Johnson (49:59), Brad Ruszala (51:38), Cooper Graf (51:41), Cesar Fortaleza (54:27), Rex Kosack (54:43), Sean Frink (55:01), and Manny Sitchon (59:02).

Meanwhile, the Quinns thanked Joshua Berger, Krista Hawley, Nick Kosack, Linda Graf, and Crystal Edmister for helping coordinate the event.

Next up for CNMI bikers is the 2008 Hell of the Marianas Century Race, which will be held on Dec. 6.

FITIAL

From Page 28

win-loss slate to Saipan. Quinata will also be 5 lbs. lighter than his opponent at 225 lbs.

Fitial originally was to take on Ton "Xcalibur" Nekaifes in the semi main event of the Dec. 12 show at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort, but Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez said the two later requested that they not be pitted against one another.

"Kelvin is related to Ton Nekaifes and according to the two of them, their families do not want them to fight," Alvarez said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*. "Rueben Quinata ultimately will be a better match up for Kelvin, not to mention it will be a 'Saipan vs. Guam' main event which will be more enticing for all in attendance."

With Fitial moving up to the main event, the semi main event will now feature Marianas Elite's Myron "The Natural" San Nicolas against Team Predators' "Brutal" Bryson Sablan.

"Myron San Nicolas is too light for Ton Nekaifes—so we had to find him an opponent, hence 'Brutal' Bryson Sablan," said Alvarez.

The 215-lb. San Nicolas and his 6-1 win-loss record is the slight favorite against the 205-lb. Sablan, which is 3-1 in four fights.

Nekaifes, meanwhile, will be featured in the Big Brawl match opposite "Kill" Bill Saures.

"Bill is the only fighter willing on taking on a very heavyweight such as Tony so we matched them up in the 'Big Brawl' match," said Alvarez.

The 210-lb. Saures of Team X-Treme will be giving up more than 50 lbs. to the Team Zalaka heavyweight, who easily is The Annihilation's heaviest fighter at 270 lbs.

What he lacks in bulk, he easily makes up for experience however as Saures comes into the fight with six wins in 10 fights, while Nekaifes lost his first and only fight so far.

Aside from the changes in the last three events of the fight card, Alvarez said Trench Tech is also scrapping the 145-lb. match between Chris "No Love" Laayug of Trench Tech and Leeroy Sablan of Marianas Elite.

"Chris Laayug vs. Leeroy Sablan has been cancelled due to an injury to both fighters. Chris popped his knee during training at Trench Tech and Leeroy hyper-extended his right arm while sparring at his camp," he said.

The rest of the fight card for Trench Warz IX: The Annihilation is as follows:

■ Team Pwang's Eddie Paulis vs. Trench Tech's Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez (4-0) in the 130-lb. division;

■ Team Pwang's J.J. "The Mauler" Mality (1-3) vs. Trench Tech's Alverick "Pretty Boy" Alvarez (2-0) in the 140-lb. division;

■ Marianas Elite's Derick "Pinchi" Rangamar (3-3) vs. Trench Tech's "Badd" Brad Palacios (5-2) in the 140-lb. division;

■ Predator Combat's Nate "The Terrible" Guam United Fight Team's Leo "The Assassin" Cing (5-4) in the 150-lb. division;

■ D.A.T. Gym's Joe Cabrera (0-1) vs. Trench Tech's Fasi "Quikdraw" Jesse (2-0) in the 155-lb. division;

■ Malesso Home Grown Fighters' Brian "The Shotgun" Howard (6-5) vs. Trench Tech's Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan (12-4) in the 150-lb. division;

■ Predator Combat's John "The Jackhammer" Borja (2-3) vs. Marianas Elite's Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo (3-2-1) in the 185-lb. division;and

■ Team SSS Robert "Pitbull" Palacios (0-5) vs. Trench Tech's Jason "Rush" Tarkong (8-2) in the 175-lb. division.

Trench Warz IX: The Annihilation will also make history with the first ever female MMA fight in the CNMI as Jen "Salbahe" Sambile makes her debut against boxer-turned-MMA fighter Tara "Tarantula" Namauleg.

Tickets for Trench Warz IX: The Annihilation are on sale at Boarderline, 6-7-Zero Rocksteady Shop, Hannam Market, and Trench Tech Gym. General admission costs $25, while VIP is $40. Gates open at 6pm.

SMASH

From Page 28

prevailed over Malou Mendoza and Luis Camacho, 16-21, 21-10, 22-20 in the mixed doubles CC division; Reyes-Navarro defeated June Pineda and Sherwin Samson, 21-16, 19-21, 21-18 in the men's doubles BB; Lampera-Peraja topped Gigi Zapanta and Mendoza in the women's doubles BB, 21-10, 14-21, 21-5; Aguda-Lampera downed Hapi Gabriel and Mendoza in the mixed doubles AB, 21-16, 23-21; and Aguda-Navarro defeated Gabriel-Samson in the men's doubles BB, 21-17, 11-21, 21-15.

Pineda and Zapanta gave the Shuttlers their lone win in opening day after outclassing Ariel Mariano and Peraja in the mixed doubles BB, 21-15, 17-21, 21-17.

Also prevailing in their opening day assignments were the D'Bombers, the Green All-Stars, and the Gray Hawks.

D' Bombers whipped the Net Fighters, 4-2.

The Bombers won the women's doubles BB, men's doubles BB, and the mixed doubles AB and BB. The Net Fighters took the men's doubles BB and the mixed doubles CC.

The Gray Hawks ruled the mixed CC and AB and the men's doubles AB and BB to beat the Bad Masters, 4-2.

The Green All-Stars nailed similar 4-2 triumph over the Blue Powers winning the mixed AB and BB divisions and the men's AB and BB categories.

Each squad will have 36 remaining games in the round-robin tournament and the team to earn the most wins after seven playing days will take the championship.

ZAPANTA

From Page 28

eraging 137.5 following a four-game series of 163, 111, 131, and 145.

Zapanta, McKenzie, and Cruz took home $20, $15, and $10, respectively for their performances with the November champion also winning a case of soft drinks courtesy of JET Holdings/Saipan Bowling Center. McKenzie also got a case of Waioka sardines.

Troy Verdaguer (483), Macrel McKenzie (341), and Toby Verdaguer (271) also took part in the monthly rolloff organized by the Saipan Bowling Association and sponsored by MARPAC.

Jon Eparwa and Yho Villavicencio, meanwhile, are currently leading the November Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes. Eparwa rolled a 786 Sunday, while Villavicencio was good for 697 to lead their divisions.

Results of Day 2 of the two-day King and Queen of the Lanes last night were still not available as of press time.

Like the Bing Prince/Princess of the Lanes, the Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes is sponsored by MARPAC and organized by SBA.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	13	2	.867	_
New York	7	6	.538	5
Philadelphia	7	6	.538	5
New Jersey	6	6	.500	5 1/2
Toronto	6	7	.462	6

Southeast Division

Orlando	9	4	.692	_
Atlanta	8	5	.615	1
Miami	7	6	.538	2
Charlotte	3	9	.250	5 1/2
Washington	1	10	.091	7

Central Division

Cleveland	10	3	.769	_
Detroit	8	5	.615	2
Milwaukee	7	8	.467	4
Chicago	6	8	.429	4 1/2
Indiana	5	7	.417	4 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Houston	9	5	.643	_
New Orleans	7	5	.583	1
San Antonio	6	6	.500	2
Dallas	6	7	.462	2 1/2
Memphis	4	9	.308	4 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	9	5	.643	_
Utah	9	5	.643	_
Portland	8	6	.571	1
Minnesota	3	9	.250	5
Oklahoma City	1	13	.071	8

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	11	1	.917	_
Phoenix	9	5	.643	3
Golden State	5	8	.385	6 1/2
Sacramento	5	10	.333	7 1/2
L.A. Clippers	2	11	.154	9 1/2

Yesterday's Games
Boston 118, Toronto 103
Philadelphia 89, Golden State 81
Minnesota 106, Detroit 80
Denver 114, Chicago 101
L.A. Lakers 118, Sacramento 108

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	8	3	0	.727	323	234
New England	7	4	0	.636	267	222
Miami	6	5	0	.545	237	245
Buffalo	6	5	0	.545	273	249

South

Tennessee	10	1	0	.909	257	165
Indianapolis	7	4	0	.636	247	244
Jacksonville	4	7	0	.364	224	240
Houston	4	7	0	.364	252	293

North

Pittsburgh	8	3	0	.727	236	160
Baltimore	7	4	0	.636	258	187
Cleveland	4	7	0	.364	207	237
Cincinnati	1	9	1	.136	148	276

West

Denver	6	5	0	.545	258	302
San Diego	4	7	0	.364	274	252
Oakland	3	8	0	.273	159	245
Kansas City	1	10	0	.091	196	327

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	10	1	0	.909	329	199
Washington	7	4	0	.636	201	199
Dallas	7	4	0	.636	265	251
Philadelphia	5	5	1	.500	271	229

South

Tampa Bay	8	3	0	.727	257	180
Carolina	8	3	0	.727	250	200
Atlanta	7	4	0	.636	276	226
New Orleans	5	5	0	.500	266	249

North

Chicago	6	5	0	.545	267	234
Minnesota	6	5	0	.545	253	246
Green Bay	5	5	0	.500	274	209
Detroit	0	11	0	.000	193	346

West

Arizona	7	4	0	.636	318	265
San Francisco	3	8	0	.273	252	310
Seattle	2	9	0	.182	207	277
St. Louis	2	9	0	.182	147	344

Yesterday's Games
Pittsburgh 27, Cincinnati 10
Sunday's Games
N.Y. Jets 34, Tennessee 13
Tampa Bay 38, Detroit 20
Chicago 27, St. Louis 3
New England 48, Miami 28
Dallas 35, San Francisco 22
Buffalo 54, Kansas City 31
Houston 16, Cleveland 6
Baltimore 36, Philadelphia 7
Minnesota 30, Jacksonville 12
Oakland 31, Denver 10
Atlanta 45, Carolina 28
Washington 20, Seattle 17
N.Y. Giants 37, Arizona 29
Indianapolis 23, San Diego 20

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS
(As of Nov. 21, 2008)

Men's Division

Freedom Air	4	0
DCCA	4	0
CPA	3	0
Legislature	3	1
Beach Boys	3	1
Law & Order	2	1
Joeten Motors	2	1
DLNR	2	1
Saipan Cell	2	2
No Zone	2	2
POI	2	2
P & S	1	2
PSS	1	3
CUC	1	2
DEQ/CRM	1	2
Customs	1	2
CHC	1	3
PIC	0	3
Hopwood	0	3
Mayors	0	4

Women's Division

NMC	2	0
DCCA	3	1
Finance	2	2
CHC	1	2
CUC	0	3

NMBF STANDINGS

Smash Killers	5	1
D'Bombers	4	2
All Stars	4	2
Gray Hawks	4	2
Bad Masters	2	4
Blue Powers	2	4
Net Fighters	2	4
Dragon Shuttlers	1	5

Celis' three homers lift Freedom Air to win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Shortstop Reno Celis was on target making homers in all his three trips at-bat to lead Freedom Air to an easy 14-4 victory over the Beach Boys in the Budweiser 2008 Inter-Government/Business Softball League Friday night at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Celis started the bottom of the first with a three-run homer, while Roy Celis also connected a two-run homer earlier than Reno to give Freedom Air a commanding, 12-2 lead.

Roy homered twice in the first inning, as his second trip at-bat resulted to another two-run homer. Roy failed to duplicate Reno's feat when the former flied out to right field.

First baseman B.J. Sablan gave the Beach Boys their two other runs when he blasted a two-run homer at the top of the second.

Reno Celis completed his amazing performance at the plate, drilling solo homers in the second and third innings.

Celis

The win was Freedom Air's fourth in as many games, while the loss was the Beach Boys first in four matches.

DCCA 14, Legislature 4

Defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs remained unbeaten in four games sharing the lead with Freedom Air after downing the Legislature, 14-4.

Pitcher Mel Sakisat, first baseman Joey Dela Cruz, third baseman Peter Tomokane, and extra hitter Julian Camacho connected on one homers apiece in DCCA's 10-run win.

Second baseman Ben Tagabuel started things out for DCCA making a three-run triple at the bottom of the first to give the defending champion a 4-0 advantage.

Sakisat, Tomokane, and Camacho hit a two-run homer each in the second inning as DCCA began pulling away despite the Legislature scoring three runs, 11-3.

DCCA's defense allowed the Legislature to score only one run in the last three innings to keep its undefeated record.

The Legislature absorbed its first loss in four matches.

SaipanCell 15, PSS 11

In the lone game Thursday night, SaipanCell ended its two-game losing skid after outclassing the Public School System, 15-11.

It was a come-from-behind win for SaipanCell, which was down, 5-11, after five complete innings.

A 10-run top of the sixth put SaipanCell in the driver's seat for the first time and it preserved the win after shutting out PSS at the bottom of the sixth.

Shortstop Tyrone Omar led SaipanCell's recovery making a two-run single in the sixth inning. Six of SaipanCell's runs at the top of the sixth were scored off PSS' errors.

The two other games Thursday night were cancelled due to a power outage.

WOMEN'S
DCCA 15, CUC 14

In the lone women's match Friday night, defending champion DCCA notched its third win in a row after edging the Commonwealth Utilities Corp, 15-14.

Leftfielder Jennifer Teigita led DCCA going 3-for-4 at-bat and posting three RBIs.

DCCA is in second place in the team standings with a 3-1 record. NMC leads the division with a 2-0 slate, while CUC has yet to win a game in three matches.

Budweiser 8-Ball concludes tonight

Saipan Billiards Association's Budweiser Open 8-Ball League concludes in different pool venues tonight around the island.

Agingan Division leader PTI Voyagers will take on USSP Wat-Ever at the latter's home with no less than the championship at stake.

Voyagers enter the match with a 44-12 win-loss slate following last week's 4-0 sweep of Godfather's Rock Steady.

Wat-Ever, meanwhile, has nothing to play for but pride as it currently runs fourth with a 19-37 slate, buoyed by last week's 4-0 skunking of Coral Reef Shark Attack.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Primo's Home Boys is currently leading the Obyan Division of the Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
PTI Voyagers is currently leading the Agingan Division of the Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

Voyager's closest pursuer, SaipanCell Hustlers, still has an outside chance of overtaking the former but needs to win all four games against Shark Attack and hope that Voyagers lose three of four.

Hustlers currently has a 42-14 win-loss card. The team actually was tied with Voyagers entering last week's match-up with Islander Rent A Car, but they proceeded to drop two of four, exacerbating their hopes of winning the title.

Over in the Obyan Division, Primo's Home Boys is currently ahead of the pack with a 35-17 win-loss slate. It won all four games last week against Coral Reef Barracuda and takes on the 18-34 VFW Warriors tonight.

The Warriors are coming off a 1-3 loss to D'Pirates Huwa last week.

Perfect Spotters has the same number of wins as Home Boys but has four more loses, one of which was inflicted following its 3-1 win over Barracuda last week. It squares off against Warriors tonight.

USSP Fotten Palau (31-25) hopes to improve against 19-37 Barracuda tonight. Fotten Palau is coming off a 4-0 win over D'Pirates Huwa.

Pacific Amusement, the same company that runs the leagues of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association, organizes the SBA-Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

For more information about the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League and SEDA, contact Charlotte Tenepere at 233-4397. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Stephens is RGA December Ace

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dwain Stephens' qualifying score of net 71 stood its ground in last Sunday's Refaluwasch Golf Association December Ace of the Month Tournament at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

It also helped that the three golfers who did beat the net score already won this year—February winner Asterio Tawanpiy scored a net 69 and October Ace Sonny Flores and July champion Manny Mangarero both carded a net 70—handing the last ticket to the RGA Club Championship to Stephens.

Stephens shot the post-handicap score of 71 during the Inaugural RGA Memorial Classic last Dec. 8 at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi.

Aside from Stephens, Tawanpiy, Flores, and Mangarero, also qualifying to RGA's yearend tournament are Luis Byun (January), Jess Wabol (March), John Mettao (April), Joe Demapan (May), Jordan Kossam (June), Tars Olopai (August), and Bae Yong Man (November).

A total of 15 players took part in last weekend's competition at Talafofo. Their names, with their net scores in parenthesis, are as follows: Demapan (72), Tony Rogolifoi (72), Don Dunop (72), Ulysis Kapileo (73), Jess Wabol (74), Olopai (75), Bill Kaipat (76), Jay Choi (76), Stephens (77), Joe Wabol (77), Gus Camacho (80), and Tom Tebuteb (86).

In the December Ace's closest to the pin competition, Kapileo took the plum in hole No. 6, while Camacho was with no peer in hole No. 15.

For more information about RGA and the rest of its events in the 2008 calendar, contact tournament director Jess Wabol at 233-3673 or RGA president Adam Hardwicke at 483-2926.

Loyola yearend tennis tilt Dec. 8-10

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tennis instructor Peter Loyola will be holding the 2008 Loyola Sports Yearend Tennis Tournament next month at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

The yearend event which will run from Dec. 8 to 10 will be having competitions in the junior doubles and adults singles.

The junior doubles event is divided into four categories, namely Levels 1, 2 and 3, and open.

The classifications in the juniors doubles will be based on the performances of participants in last month's Loyola tournament. The open doubles is for players in the 18-and-under age group.

The adults singles will also have four divisions—the men's and women's 3.0 and 4.0.

The adults singles will be played in an eight-game pro set and will have a single elimination format.

Competitions in Levels 1, 2, and 3 will be a regular six-game set, while the open division will use the eight-game Pro Set.

The junior doubles will have a double-elimination format.

Expected to join next month's adults singles are the winners of the inaugural Loyola yearend netfest, namely Lydia Tan, Yuri Hatamata, and Carol Auther.

Tan defeated Karen Ramsey, 8-1, in Class A's finals last year

Hatamata ruled Class B after an 8-4 decision against Sarah Yap, while Auther pulled off an 8-5 win over Sonal Rajebhosale in the Class C finals.

Entrance fee for the adults singles is $7. Each player in the juniors doubles will only pay $5 registration fee.

For more information on the tournament, contact Loyola at 285-3135 or email him at pbloyola@yahoo.com.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Carl Dela Cruz is seen here eyeing the ball during the 2007 Loyola Sports Yearend Tennis Tounament at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. The 2008 edition of the annual event will run from Dec. 8 to 10.

Jets rout previously unbeaten Titans

Brett Favre threw two touchdown passes, Leon Washington ran for two scores and the New York Jets routed the Tennessee Titans 34-13 on Sunday.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Celis' three homers lift Freedom Air to win

Shortstop Reno Celis was on target making homers in all his three trips at-bat to lead Freedom Air to an easy 14-4 victory over the Beach Boys.

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Torgeson sets record in Tough Love

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Eli Torgeson topped the 3rd Annual Tough Love Mountain Bike race Sunday in record-breaking fashion, while XTERRA World veteran Mieko Carey defended her women's division title.

Torgeson finished the race from Micro Beach to Mt. Tapochao in 29 minutes, 18 seconds, breaking the 32:03 mark set by Steve Smith in the inaugural race in 2006.

In second place and behind Torgeon by about five minutes was Gary Bandoja, who timed in at 34:44. Federico Fernandez finished third (35:11), followed by Lewie Tenorio (36:30), and event organizer Russ Quinn (36:41).

Last year's winner Nate Hawley, who timed in at 34:35 was more than three minutes slower this year, clocking in at 37:45 to drop to eighth place.

Completing the Top 10 in the men's

See TORGESON on Page 26

Participants in the 2008 Tough Love Mountain Bike race pose for a group photo at the finish line on the summit of Mt. Tapochao Sunday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fitial moves up to main event

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The main event of Trench Warz IX: Annihilation will now be a Saipan-Guam affair with Marianas Elite's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial squaring off against Spike 22 Fight Academy's Rueben "The Booben" Quinata.

Fitial and Quinata will see action in the heavyweight category with the former tipping the scales at 230 lbs. and coming into the fight with a 12-5-2 win-loss-draw record. The latter, meanwhile, brings his immaculate 3-0

See FITIAL on Page 26

Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial, seen here in his recent fight with Charleston Aiken, will take on Guam's Rueben "The Booben" Quinata in the main event of Trench Warz IX: Annihilation.

MARK RABAGO

Zapanta zaps field for 8th monthly plum

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Might as well call the Bing Prince of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament Raphael Zapanta's personal playground.

This after the 14-year-old Saipan Southern High School student won his eighth monthly youth championship last Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Zapanta followed up his success in October by knocking down 654 pins in four games for an average of 163.5 pinfalls per game.

The youngest son of Ross and Gigi Zapanta started the four-game series with aplomb, tattooing 213 pins in the first game. He struggled in the two middle games, winding up with pedestrian scores of 121 and 148, before closing with a 172.

The November Bing victory adds to the bowling prodigy's championships in February, March, May, June, July, and August editions of the roll-off aside from the aforementioned October championship.

Like last month, Marion McKenzie came in second with 628 pinfalls built around rolls of 161, 142, 191, and 138—good for a 157 average.

Zack Cruz complete the Top 3 after knocking down 550 pinfalls and av-

See ZAPANTA on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

November Bing Prince of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament winner Raphael Zapanta is flanked by runners-up Marion McKenzie and Zack Cruz during the awards ceremony Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Smash Killers nearly sweep Day 1

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Smash Killers' Andrew Galvez serves while teammate Elna Curate looks on during their mixed doubles CC match against the Red Dragon Shuttlers in the 2nd Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament Saturday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Smash Killers were the biggest winners on Day 1 of the 2nd Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament Saturday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Macoi Aguda-captained Smash Killers were paired with the Red Dragon Shuttlers with the former cruising to an easy 5-1 victory.

Providing the wins for the Smash Killers were the pairs of Elna Curate-Andrew Galvez, Robert Reyes-Paul Navarro, Lucelle Lampera-Marlene Peraja, Aguda-Lampera, and Aguda-Navarro.

The tandem of Curate and Galvez

See SMASH on Page 26